



DARK NIGHTS

DEATH METAL

1

GUIDEBOOK



SNYDER • TYNION IV • WILLIAMSON • ZDARSKY • CLOONAN
AYALA • PRIEST • MAHNKE • RANDOLPH • PANOSIAN • RISSO
MENDOZA • BARON • LOPEZ • BONVILLAIN • GUERRERO

AGES 13+

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8.22.20 | 10am PT | A 24 HOUR EVENT | ALL ACCESS, NO LINES



FANDOME

A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

08.22.2020

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Story by TOM TAYLOR • Art by DARICK ROBERTSON

When a nation is steeped in terror...
will John Constantine lift a finger?

If so, which finger?

HELLBLAZER

RISE and FALL



A new Prestige Plus series

September

DARK NIGHTS
DARK METAL
GUIDEBOOK

EARTH IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, SHROUDED IN A REALM OF DARKNESS AFTER THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S DEFEAT BY THE COSMIC GODDESS **PERPETUA**. NOW **THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS** AND HIS ARMY OF DARK KNIGHTS RULE THE PLANET, WREAKING HAVOC ON HUMANITY AND RAINING DESTRUCTION ON THE WORLD. AS **WONDER WOMAN**, **SUPERMAN**, **BATMAN**, AND OTHER HEROES FIGHT TO SURVIVE IN THIS STRANGE NEW LANDSCAPE, ONE CLOAKED FIGURE HAS BEEN OBSERVING FROM THE SIDELINES, CREATING A GUIDEBOOK TO THIS NEW WORLD AND ITS EVIL LEADERS IN THE HOPE OF FORMING A PLAN FOR JUSTICE...AND PENANCE.

THE FALL OF EARTH

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PENCILLER: DOUG MAHNKE - INKER: JAIME MENDOZA
COLORIST: DAVID BARON - LETTERER: TOM NAPOLITANO

HARLEY QUINN IN QUEEN OF THE DESERT

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

The Frozen Waste



The Land of the Batman who Laughs
Metalverse



"I WANT YOU TO CLOSE YOUR MIND AND IMAGINE THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT."

"REMEMBER FOR A MOMENT HOW IT FELT WHEN YOU LOOKED UP AT THE BRIGHT SKY."



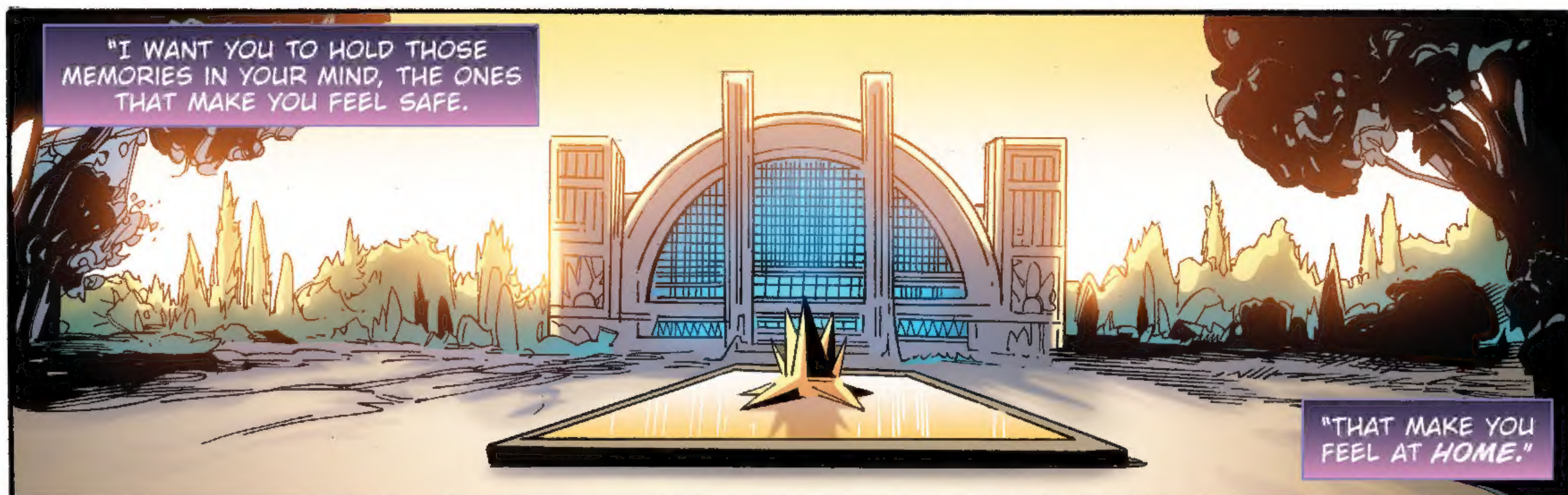
"WHEN YOU WALKED DOWN A FAMILIAR ALLEY."



"WHEN YOU DREAMED OF A FUTURE, FAST APPROACHING."



"AND THEN LOOKED UP AT THE STARS AND THOUGHT, I WILL MAKE IT SO."



"I WANT YOU TO HOLD THOSE MEMORIES IN YOUR MIND, THE ONES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE."

"THAT MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME."

BECAUSE
THOSE *MEMORIES*
ARE ALL THAT
REMAINS OF THE
WORLD THAT
WAS.

IT'S
STRANGE TO
THINK HOW MUCH
HAS CHANGED
IN ONLY A
FEW SHORT
MONTHS.

THAT ALL
THE COMFORTS
OF HOME ARE NOW
CONFINED TO
DREAMS.

THE FALL OF EARTH

SCOTT SNYDER, JAMES TYNION IV, JOSHUA WILLIAMSON **WRITERS**

DOUG MAHNKE **PENCILLER** JAIME MENDOZA **INKER**

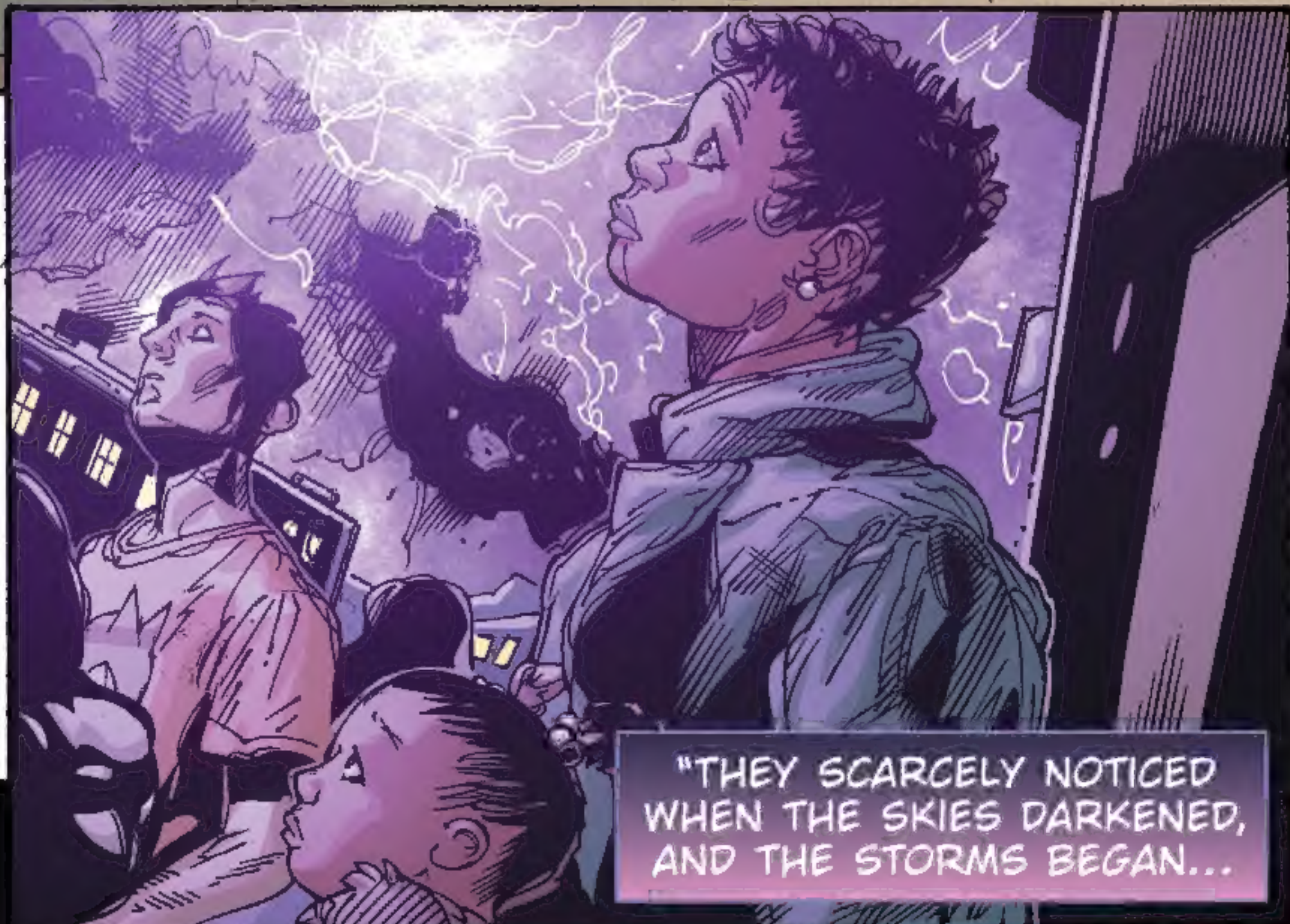
DAVID BARON **COLORIST** TOM NAPOLITANO **LETTERER**

WHO COULD
HAVE EXPECTED
HOW QUICKLY OUR
WORLD WOULD
DESCEND INTO THIS
HORROR?

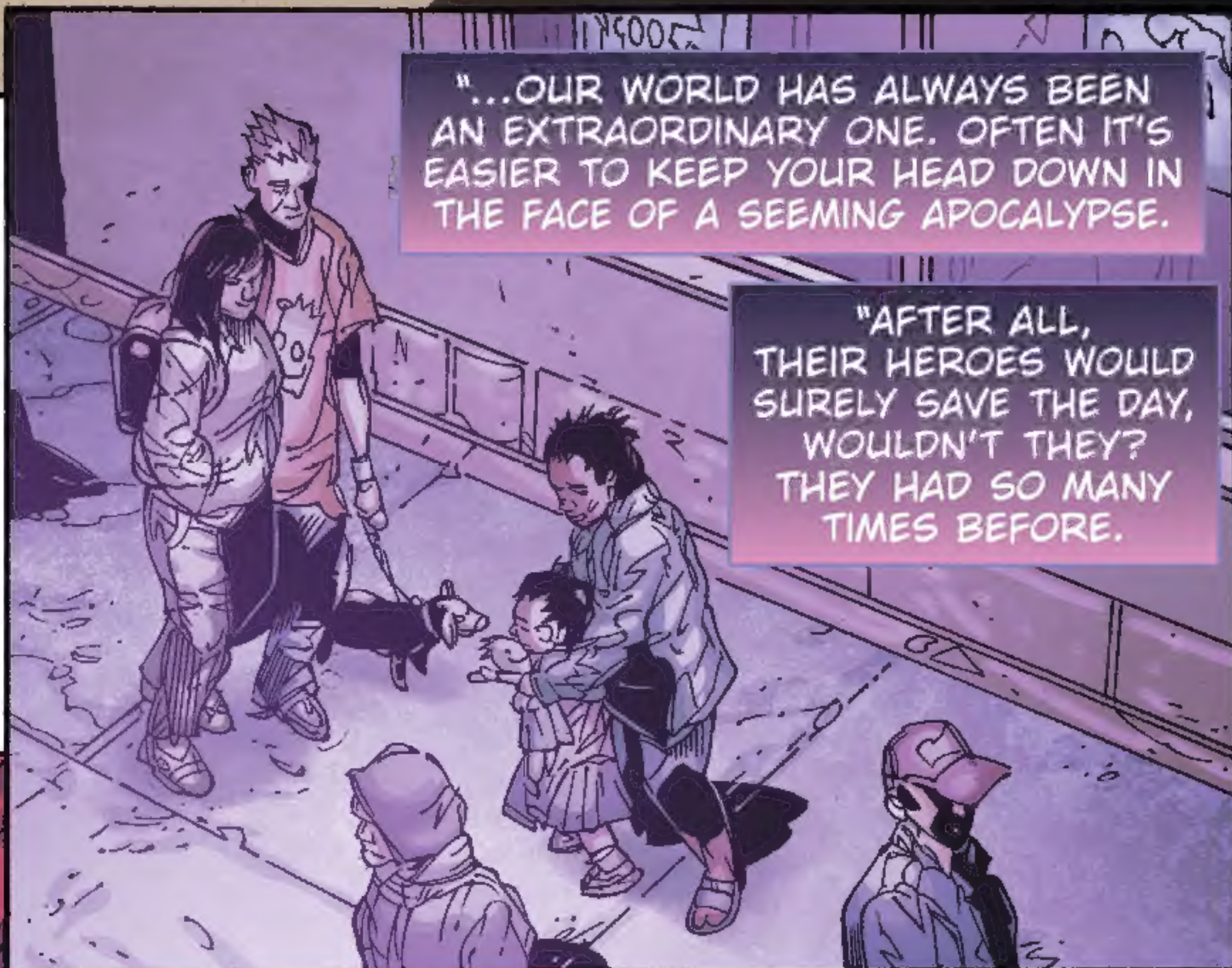
WHO
ELSE BUT
ME?

YOU
SEE...IT WAS
AN *ORDINARY*
DAY AT FIRST.
NO DIFFERENT
THAN ANY
OTHER.

"BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, GOING ABOUT THEIR LIVES, WITH THEIR MUNDANE CONCERNS. HEALTH. HEARTACHE. TAXES."



"THEY SCARCELY NOTICED WHEN THE SKIES DARKENED, AND THE STORMS BEGAN..."



"...OUR WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY ONE. OFTEN IT'S EASIER TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN IN THE FACE OF A SEEMING APOCALYPSE."

"AFTER ALL, THEIR HEROES WOULD SURELY SAVE THE DAY, WOULDN'T THEY? THEY HAD SO MANY TIMES BEFORE."



"OF COURSE, WHAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THEIR GREATEST HEROES WERE *MISSING*."



"THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WAS IN THE MIDST OF BATTLING A COSMIC GODDESS. THE MOTHER OF THE MULTIVERSE, *PERPETUA*."

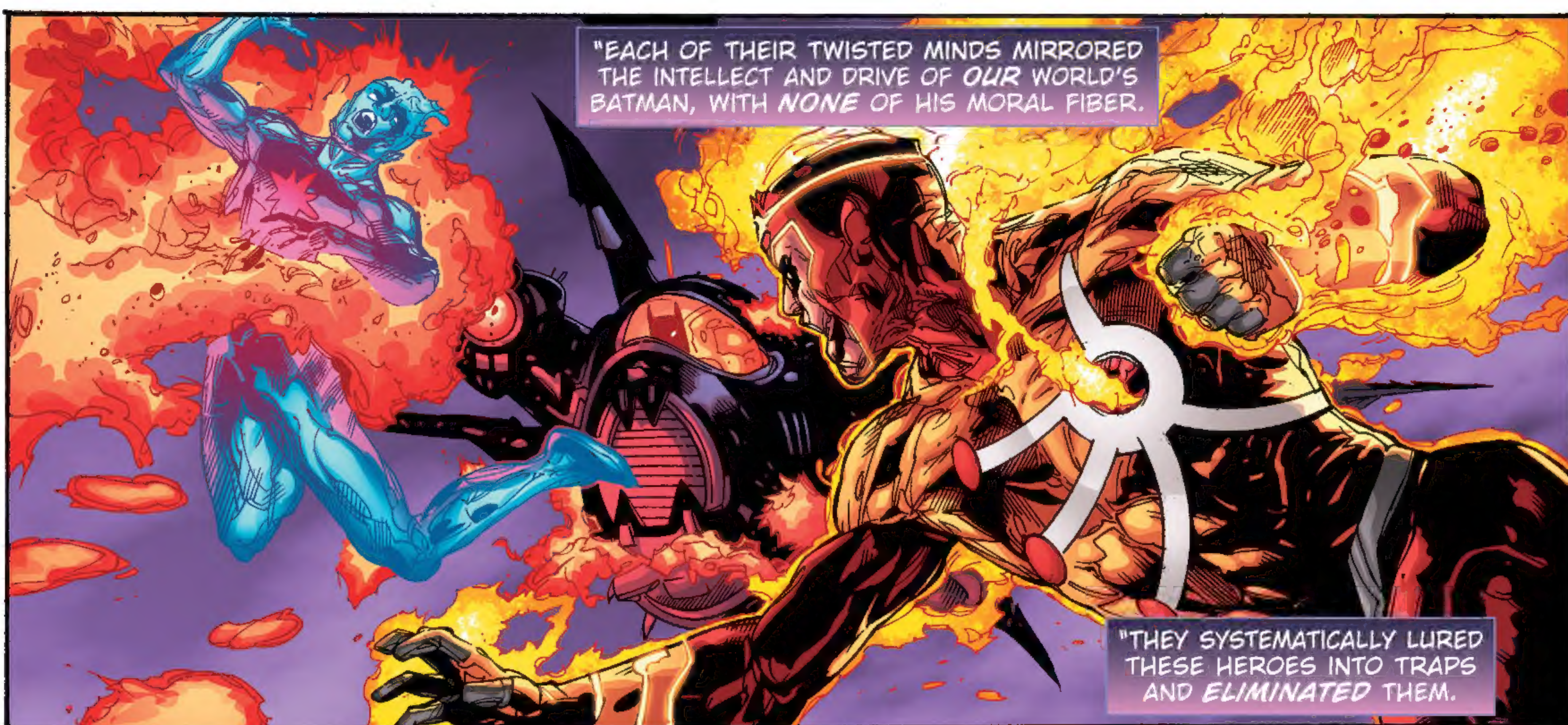
"AND THEY WERE *LOSING*."



"AND THAT IS WHY NO ONE WAS
PREPARED WHEN THE SKY OPENED UP...
AND BECAME DARK WITH BATMEN."

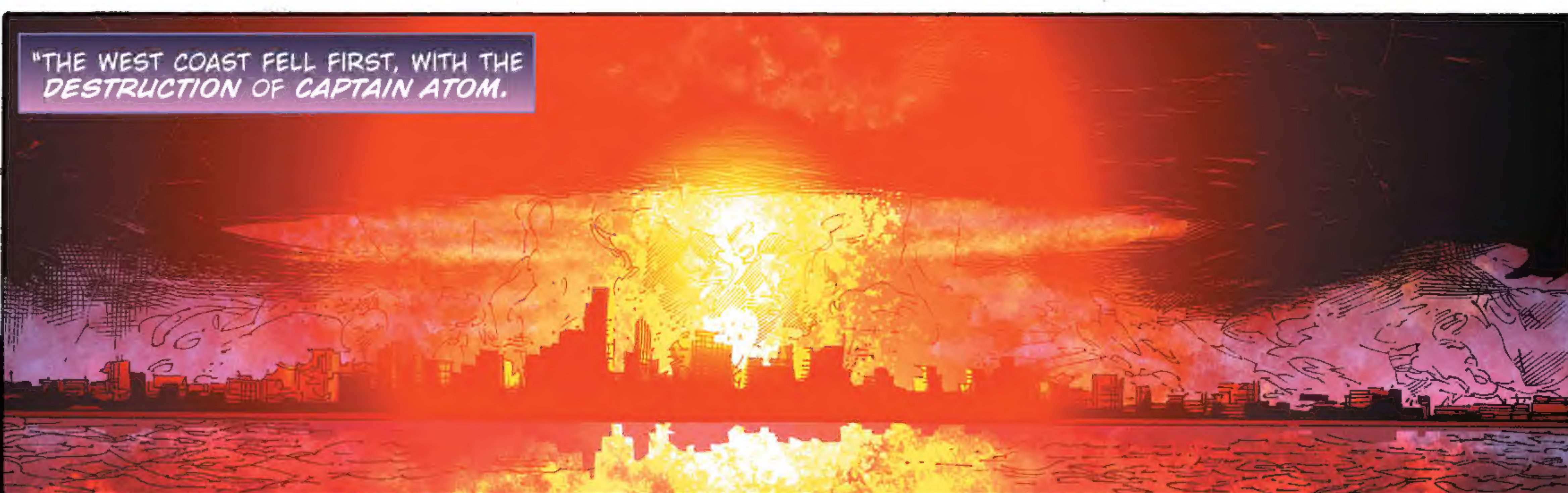


"THEY SWARMED OUR WORLD, BROUGHT HERE FROM THE **DARK MULTIVERSE**, THE PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE REAL BATMAN'S DEEPEST FEARS.

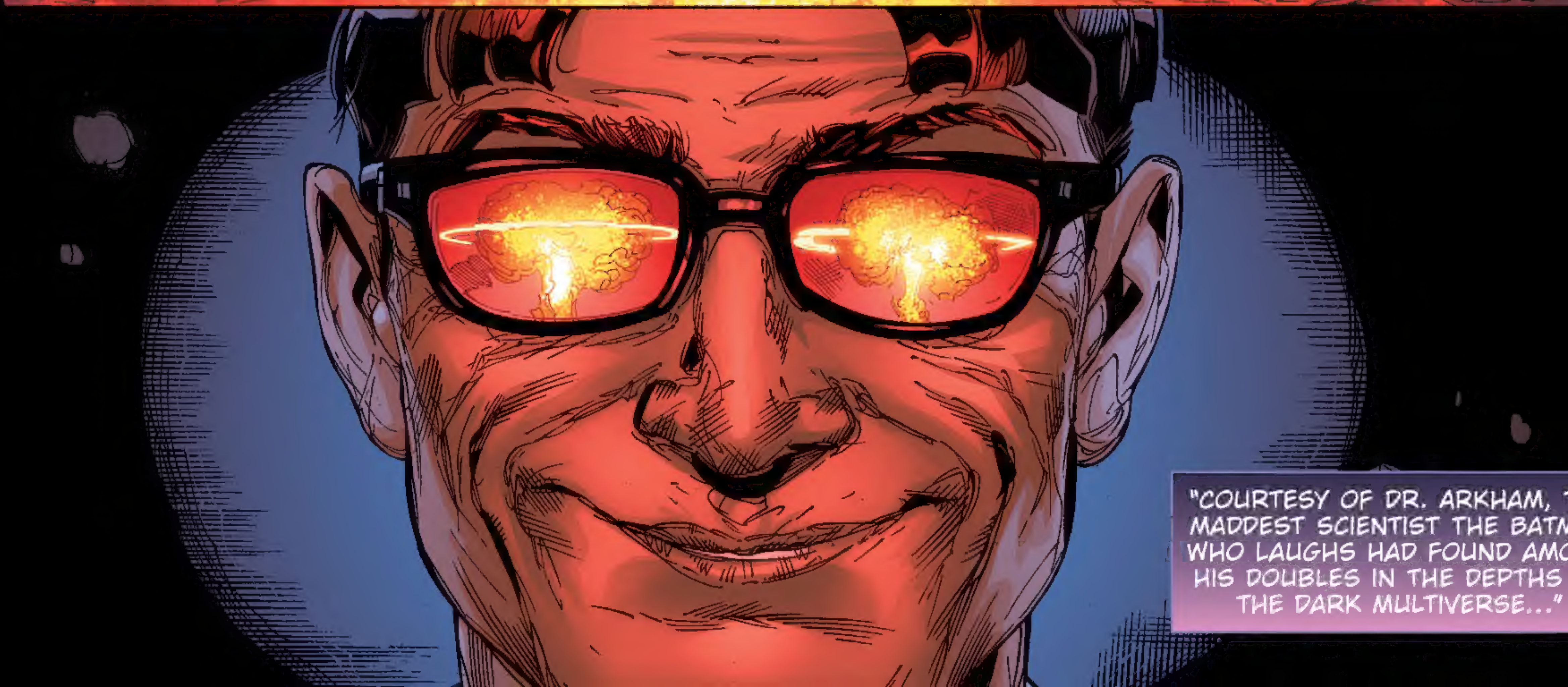


"EACH OF THEIR TWISTED MINDS MIRRORED THE INTELLECT AND DRIVE OF **OUR** WORLD'S BATMAN, WITH **NONE** OF HIS MORAL FIBER.

"THEY SYSTEMATICALLY LURED THESE HEROES INTO TRAPS AND **ELIMINATED** THEM.



"THE WEST COAST FELL FIRST, WITH THE **DESTRUCTION** OF CAPTAIN ATOM.

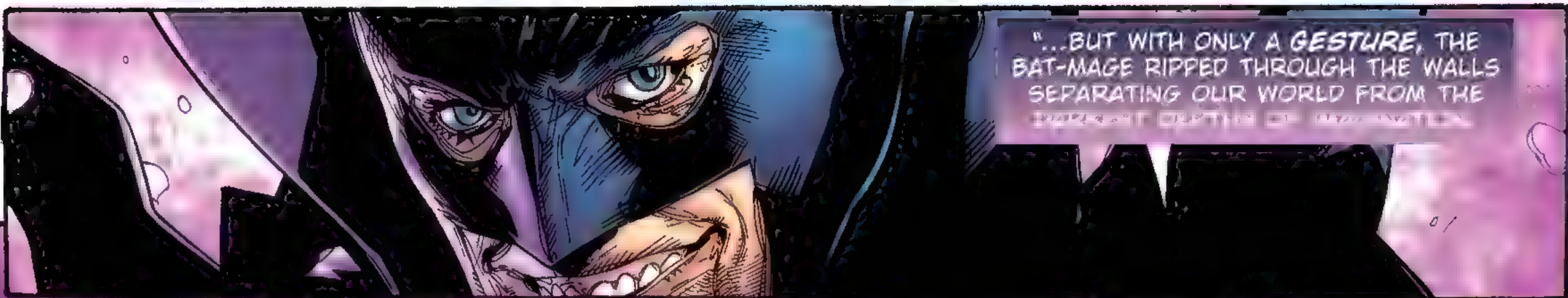


"COURTESY OF DR. ARKHAM, THE MADDEST SCIENTIST THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAD FOUND AMONG HIS DOUBLES IN THE DEPTHS OF THE **DARK MULTIVERSE**..."

"THE BAT-MAGE WAS THE NEXT TO STRIKE. HE DECIDED TO DARKEN THE DOORSTEP OF PARADISE ITSELF. *THEMYSCIRA* HOME OF THE AMAZONS.



"HAVING WATCHED AMERICA FALL TO THE BATMEN, THE GREATEST HEROES IN ALL OF MAGIC Banded Together WITH THE AMAZONS TO STOP HIM.



"...BUT WITH ONLY A GESTURE, THE BAT-MAGE RIPPED THROUGH THE WALLS SEPARATING OUR WORLD FROM THE DEEPEST CRYPTS OF HELL.

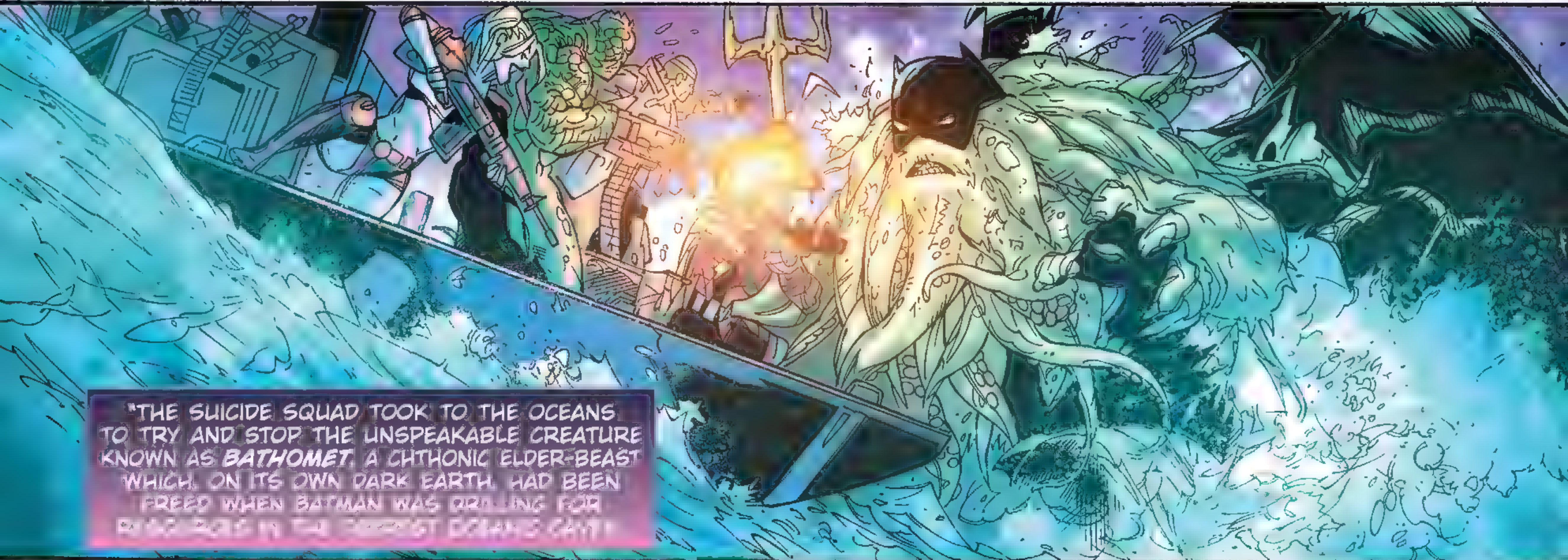


"HE UNLEASHED ALL OF HELL ON THE HEROES OF MAGIC.

"AND IN TIME, THEY TOO FELL."



"THE TEEN TITANS AND TITANS GATHERED TO
HEAD OFF THE APOKOLIPTIAN BATMAN KNOWN AS
DARKFATHER, WHO IN HIS REALITY, HAD TAKEN
THE WARPS OF BOTH KILLER, THE JUDGE AND THE



"THE SUICIDE SQUAD TOOK TO THE OCEANS
TO TRY AND STOP THE UNSPEAKABLE CREATURE
KNOWN AS **BATHOMET**, A CHTHONIC ELDER-BEAST
WHICH, ON ITS OWN DARK EARTH, HAD BEEN
FREED WHEN BATMAN WAS DRILLING FOR
RICHARDS IN THE DEEPEST OCEAN'S CAVE"



"LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT
SOMETHING STRANGE WAS
UNDERWAY IN GOTHAM CITY.

"A LIVING CITY WITH THE MIND
OF BATMAN WAS GROWING INTO
A HORRIFYING CASTLE, AND THE
CITY STRETCHED AND CHANGED
IN ITS MIND"

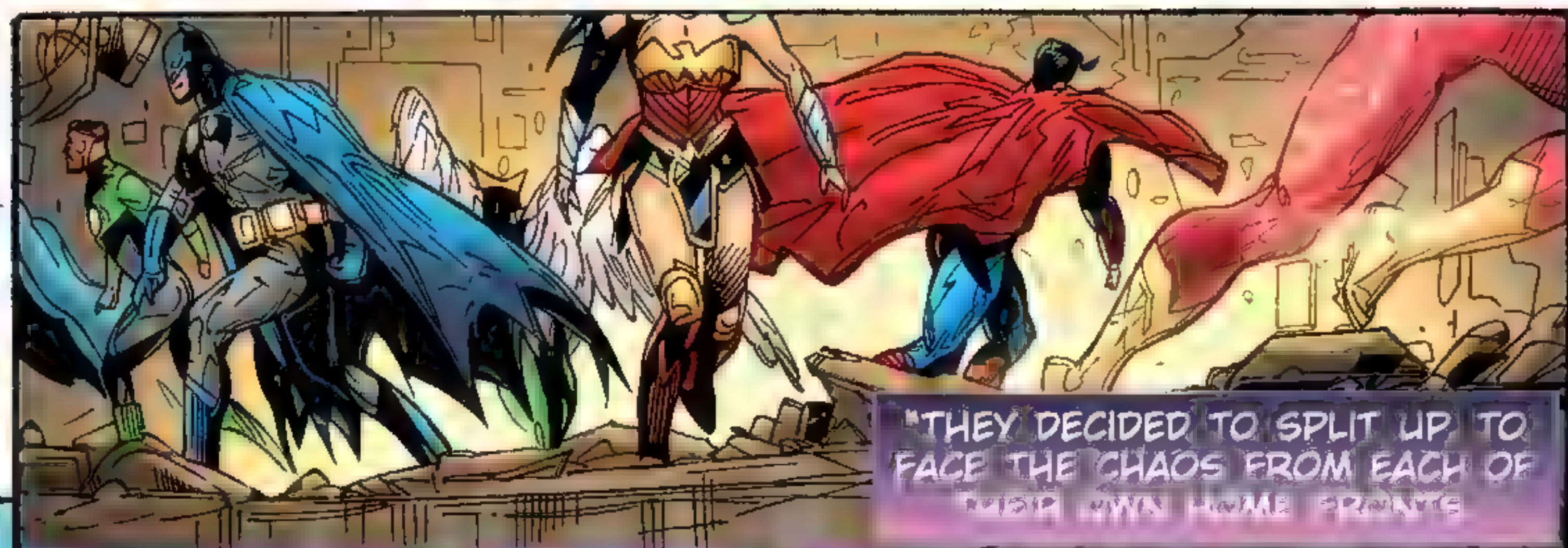
"AND THAT IS WHEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE RETURNED TO A WORLD ALREADY IN THE GRIP OF TERROR. THEY WORE FAILURE ON THEIR FACES."



"WONDER WOMAN HAD USED GREAT STRENGTH TO FACE PERPETUA, BUT FELL SHORT IN THE BATTLE. THE OTHERS DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT SHE HAD SEEN. YET ALL SHE REMEMBERED WAS FEAR. FEAR AND THE BLIND BLIND OF FURY."



"BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO LITIGATE THE PAST. THE PRESENT WAS FALLING APART."

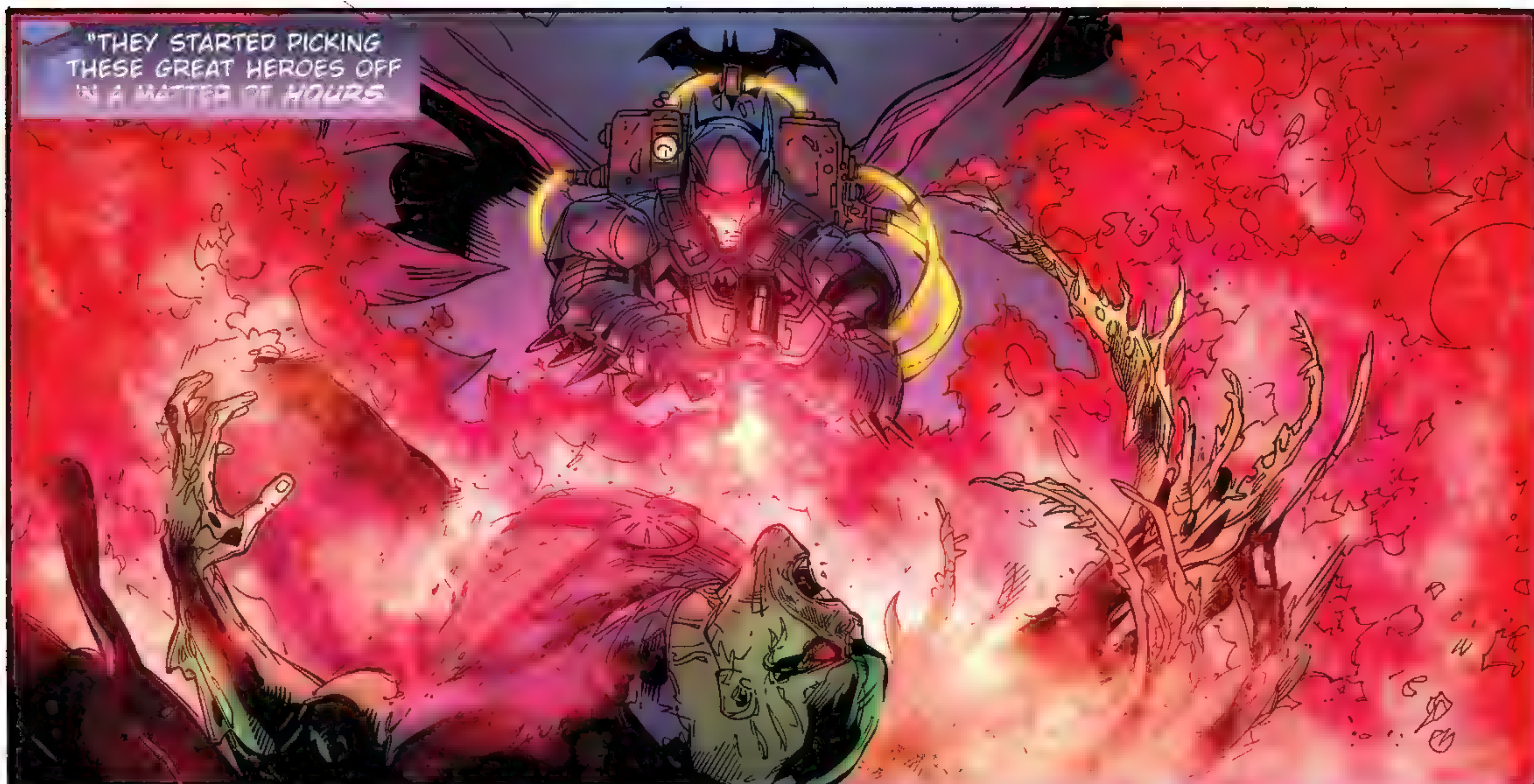


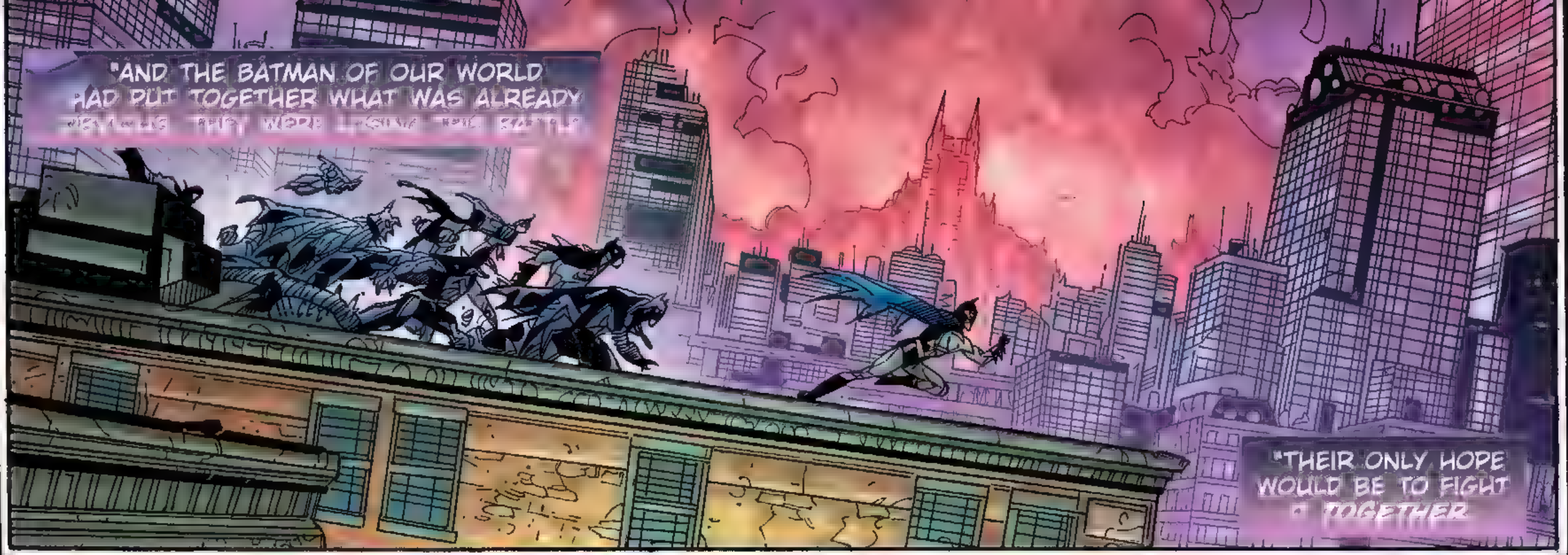
"THEY DECIDED TO SPLIT UP TO FACE THE CHAOS FROM EACH OF THEIR OWN HOME FRONTS."

"THAT WAS THEIR FATAL MISTAKE."

"AND EXACTLY WHAT THE BATMEN HAD PLANNED FOR."

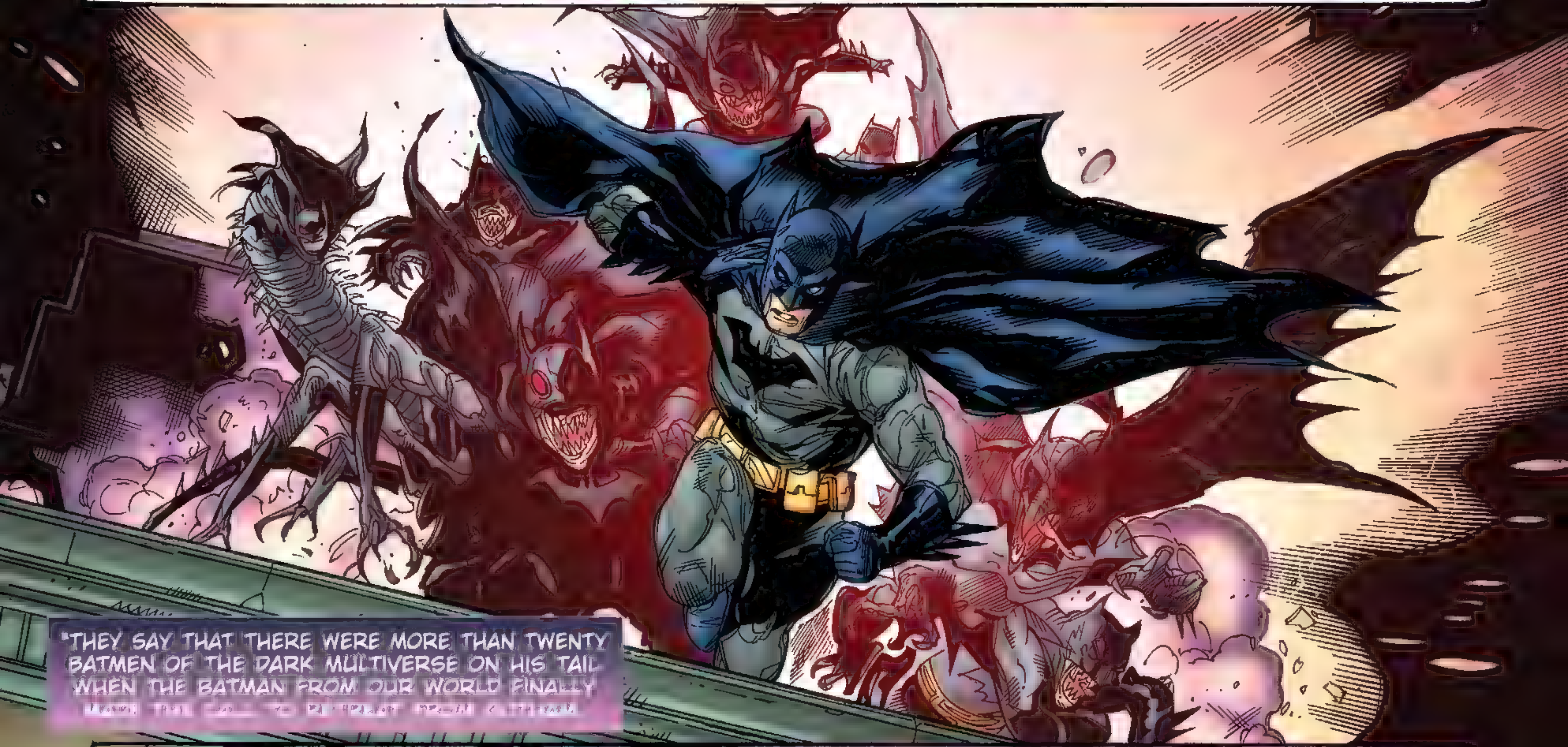






"AND THE BATMAN OF OUR WORLD
HAD PUT TOGETHER WHAT WAS ALREADY
DISASTROUS. THEY WERE LOSING THE BATTLE."

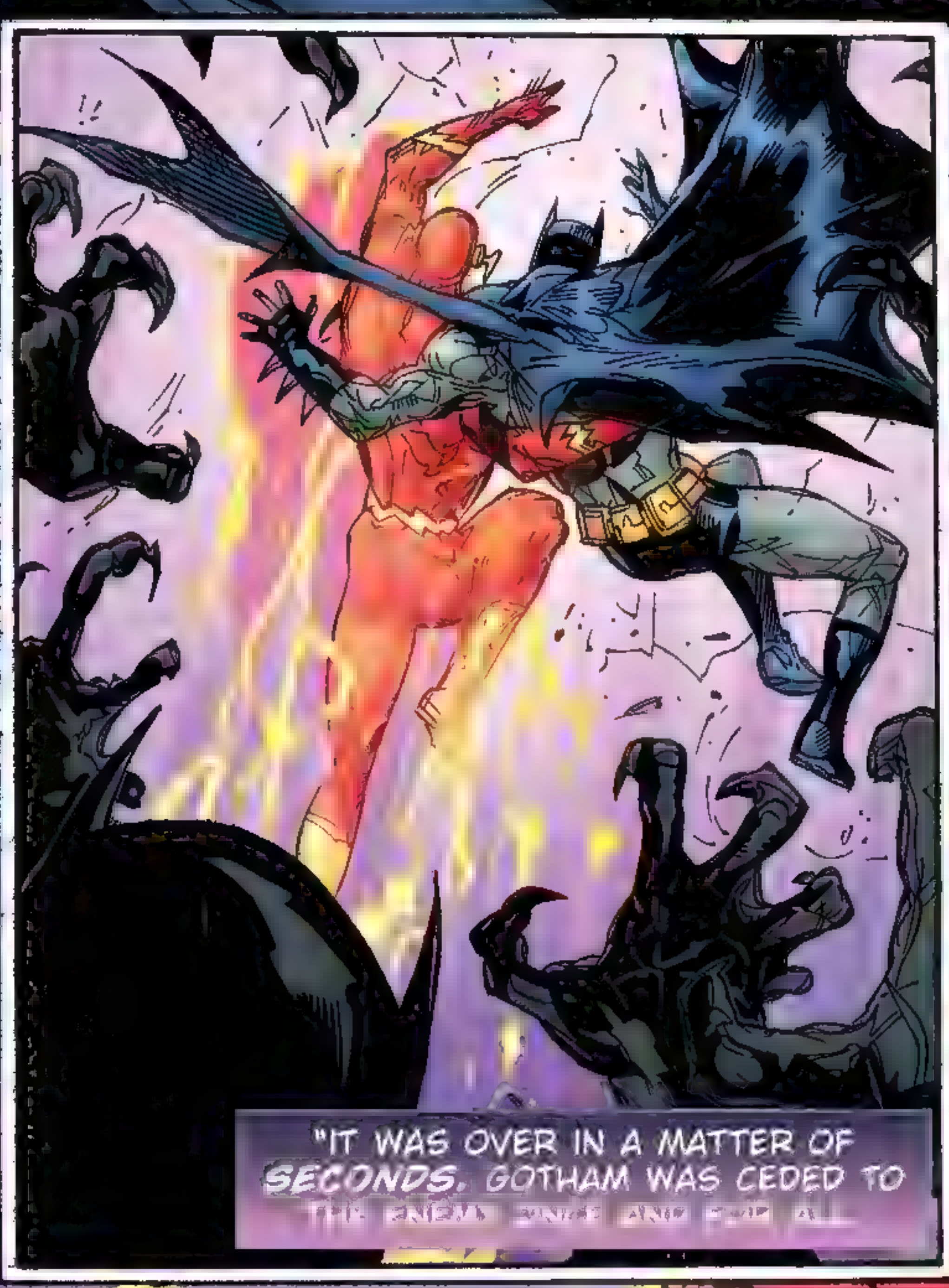
"THEIR ONLY HOPE
WOULD BE TO FIGHT
TOGETHER."



"THEY SAY THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN TWENTY
BATMEN OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE ON HIS TAIL
WHEN THE BATMAN FROM OUR WORLD FINALLY
MADE THE CALL TO RETREAT FROM GOTHAM."



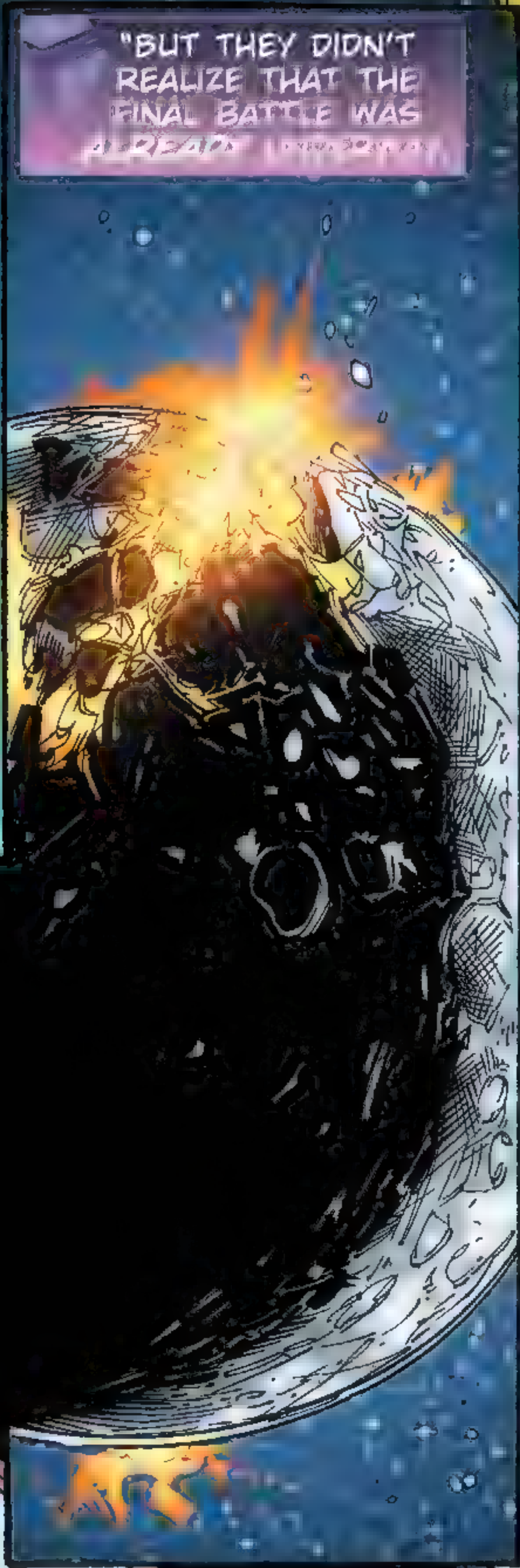
"THEY SAY THAT THE SONIC BOOMS SHATTERED THE
WINDOWS IN A DOZEN CITIES BETWEEN THE MIDWEST
AND THE EAST COAST AS HIS ESCAPE DREW CLOSER."



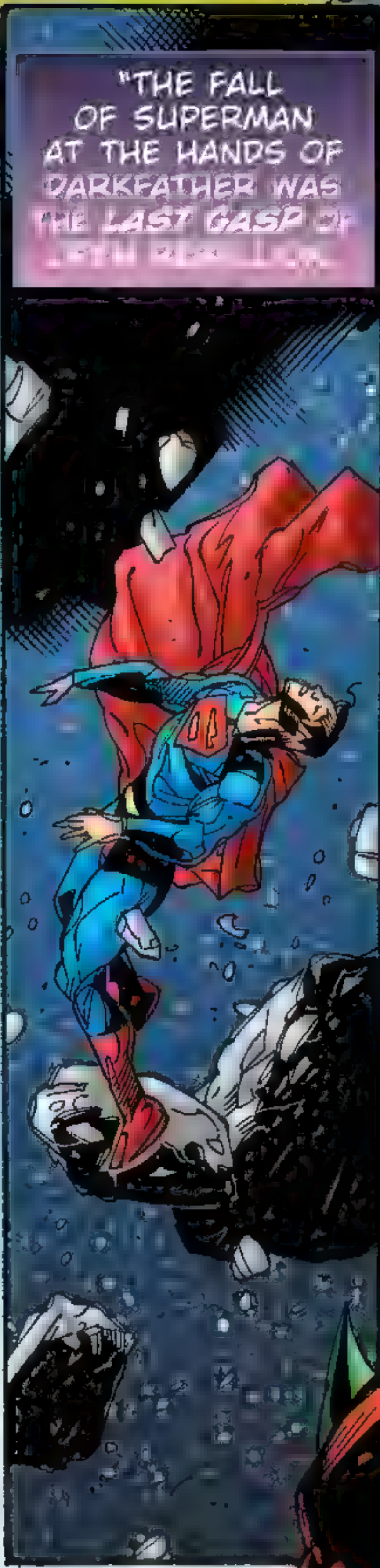
"IT WAS OVER IN A MATTER OF
SECONDS. GOTHAM WAS CEDED TO
THE ENEMY, ONCE AND FOR ALL."



"THE FLASH AND BATMAN CALLED FOR
HELP. THEY SOUGHT TO RALLY THE FORCES
TOGETHER AND MAKE A FINAL STAND."



"BUT THEY DIDN'T
REALIZE THAT THE
FINAL BATTLE WAS
ALREADY BEING
FOUGHT."

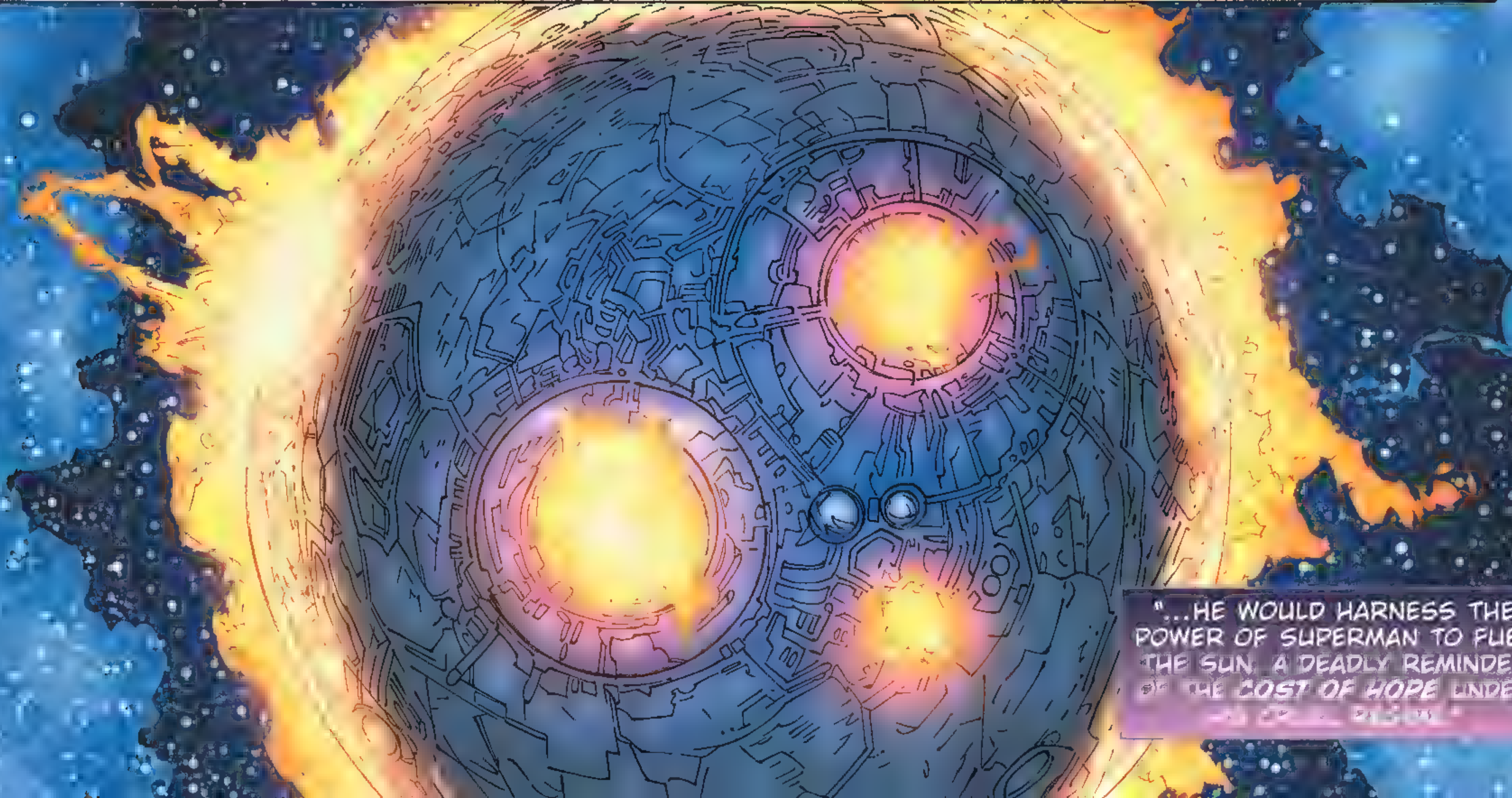
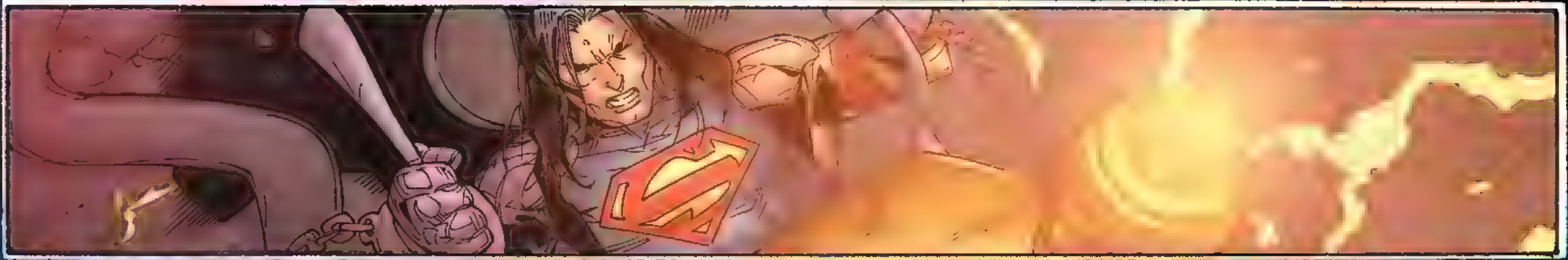


"THE FALL
OF SUPERMAN
AT THE HANDS OF
DARKFEATHER WAS
THE LAST GASP OF
LIFE REBELLION."



"A DEVASTATING BLOW TO
THE MORALE OF EVERYONE
STILL RESISTING ON EARTH."

"THE BATTLE BETWEEN PERPETUA AND WONDER
WOMAN HAD BURNED OUT THE SUN, BUT THE
BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAD A PLAN FOR THAT."



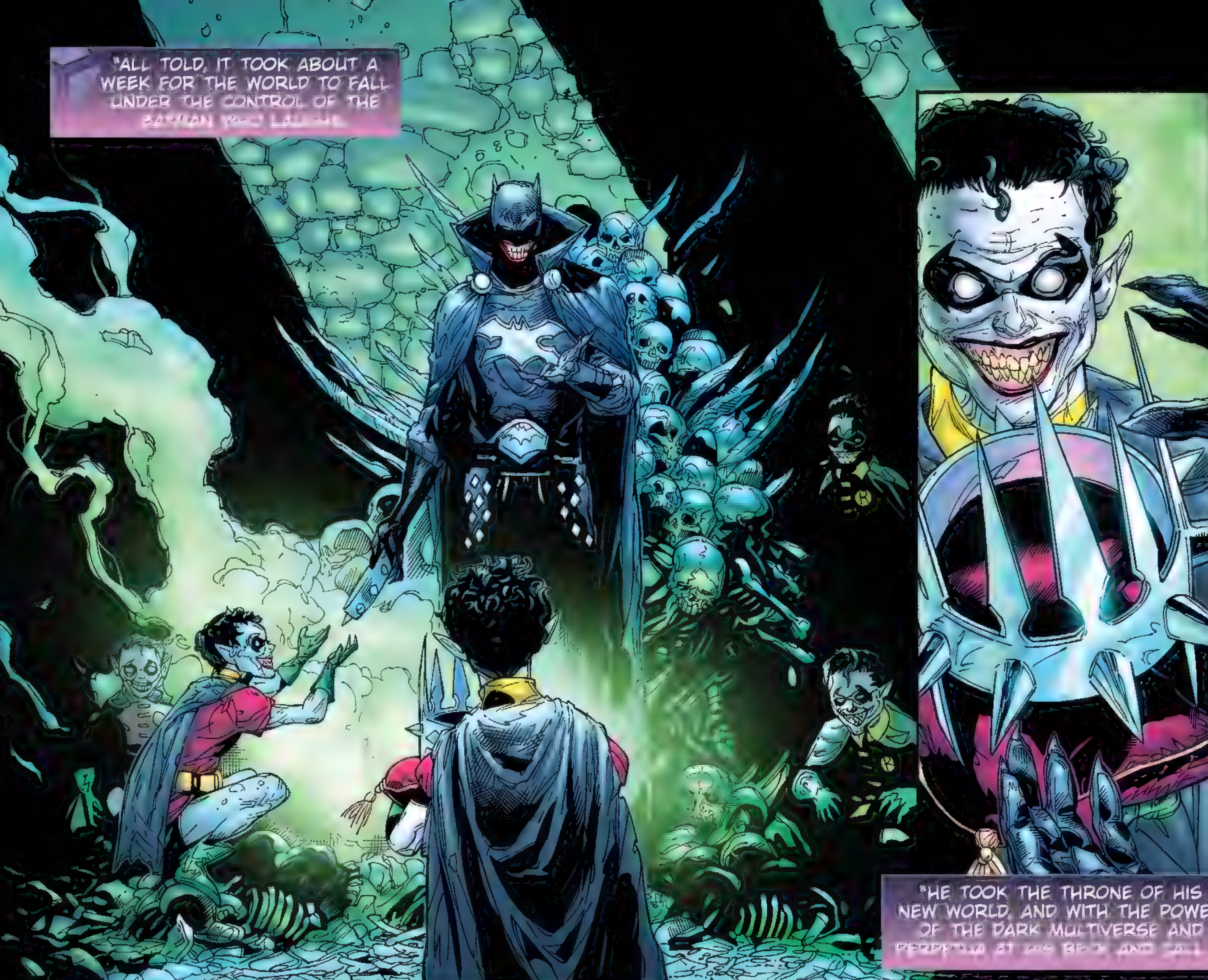
"...HE WOULD HARNESS THE
POWER OF SUPERMAN TO FUEL
THE SUN, A DEADLY REMINDER
OF THE COST OF HOPE UNDER
THE CRUEL REGIM."

"AFTER THE FALL OF SUPERMAN,
AQUAMAN SURRENDERED WHEN HE
REALIZED THAT BATHOMET WOULD KILL
ALL OF ATLANTIS IF HE DID NOT COMPLY."



"WONDER WOMAN DID
THE SAME TO SAVE HER
SISTERS THE AMYTHYSTS."

"ALL TOLD, IT TOOK ABOUT A WEEK FOR THE WORLD TO FALL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BATMAN YOU'VE LOST."

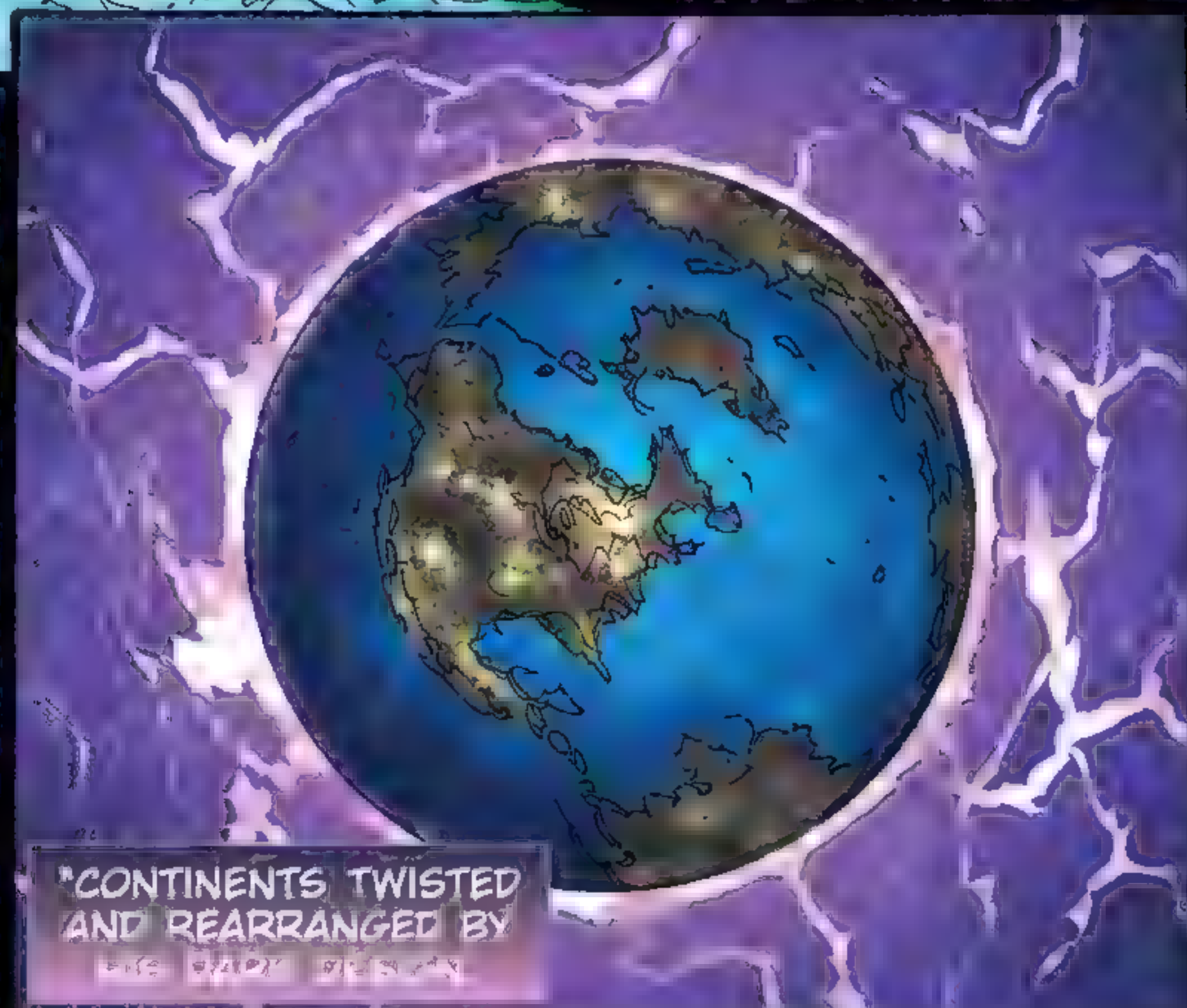


"HE TOOK THE THRONE OF HIS NEW WORLD, AND WITH THE POWER OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE AND PROPHETIC AT HIS BELT AND GULL."

"HE CHANGED THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY."

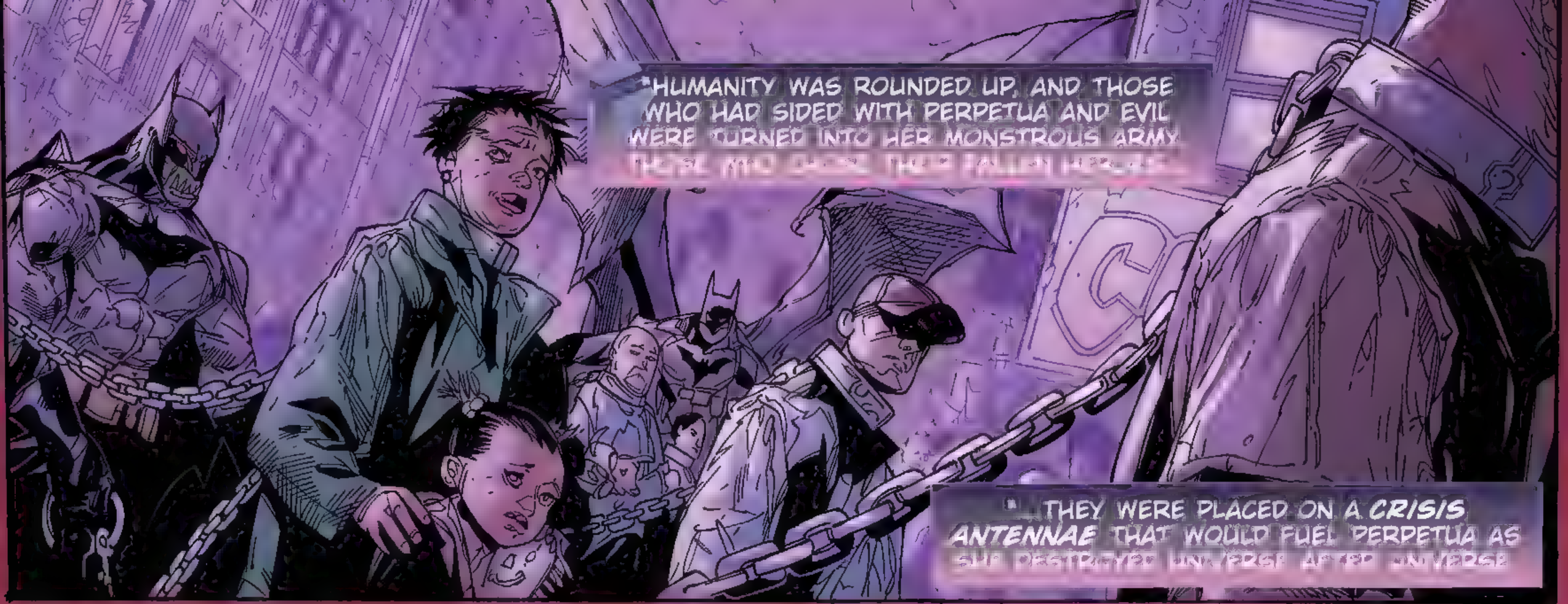


"CONTINENTS TWISTED AND REARRANGED BY THE DARK DESIGN."



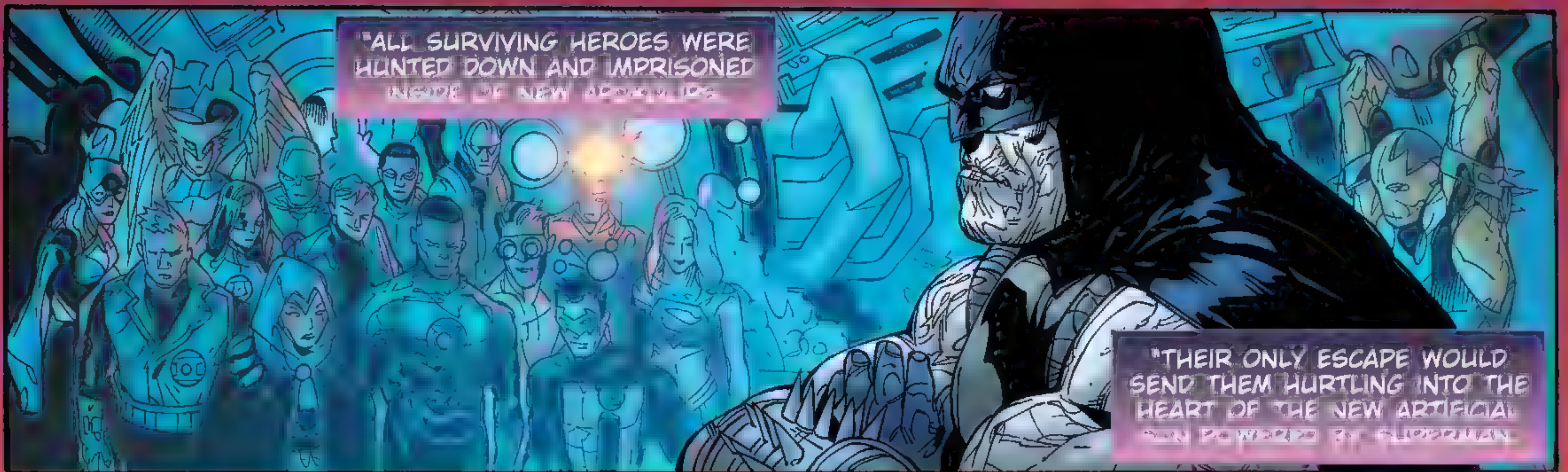
"REMAKING OUR WORLD IN HIS DARK IMAGE."





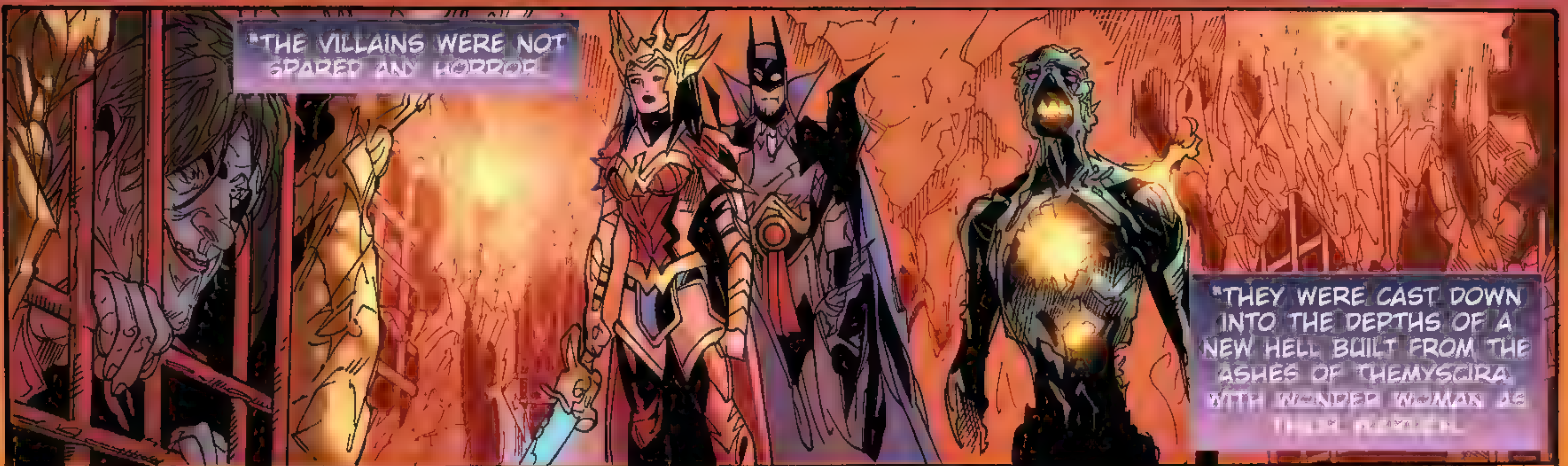
"HUMANITY WAS ROUNDED UP, AND THOSE WHO HAD SIDED WITH PERPETUA AND EVIL WERE TURNED INTO HER MONSTROUS ARMY. THOSE WHO LOSE THEIR FALLEN HEROES."

"THEY WERE PLACED ON A CRISIS ANTENNAE THAT WOULD FUEL PERPETUA AS SHE DESTROYED UNIVERSE AFTER UNIVERSE."



"ALL SURVIVING HEROES WERE HUNTED DOWN AND IMPRISONED INSIDE OF NEW APPARATUS."

"THEIR ONLY ESCAPE WOULD SEND THEM HURLING INTO THE HEART OF THE NEW ARTIFICIAL SUN POWER OF SUPREMACY."



"THE VILLAINS WERE NOT SPARED ANY HORROR."

"THEY WERE CAST DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS OF A NEW HELL BUILT FROM THE ASHES OF THEMYSKIRA, WITH WONDER WOMAN AS THEIR PRISONER."



"THIS IS WHAT IS LEFT OF EARTH."



"A NIGHTMARE."



SEE IT FOR
WHAT IT HAS
BECOME.



SEE WHAT MY
ACTIONS HAVE
MADE IT.

TO BE FAIR,
THIS MOMENT,
IT'S BEEN A LONG
TIME COMIN' IF
YOU ASK
ME.

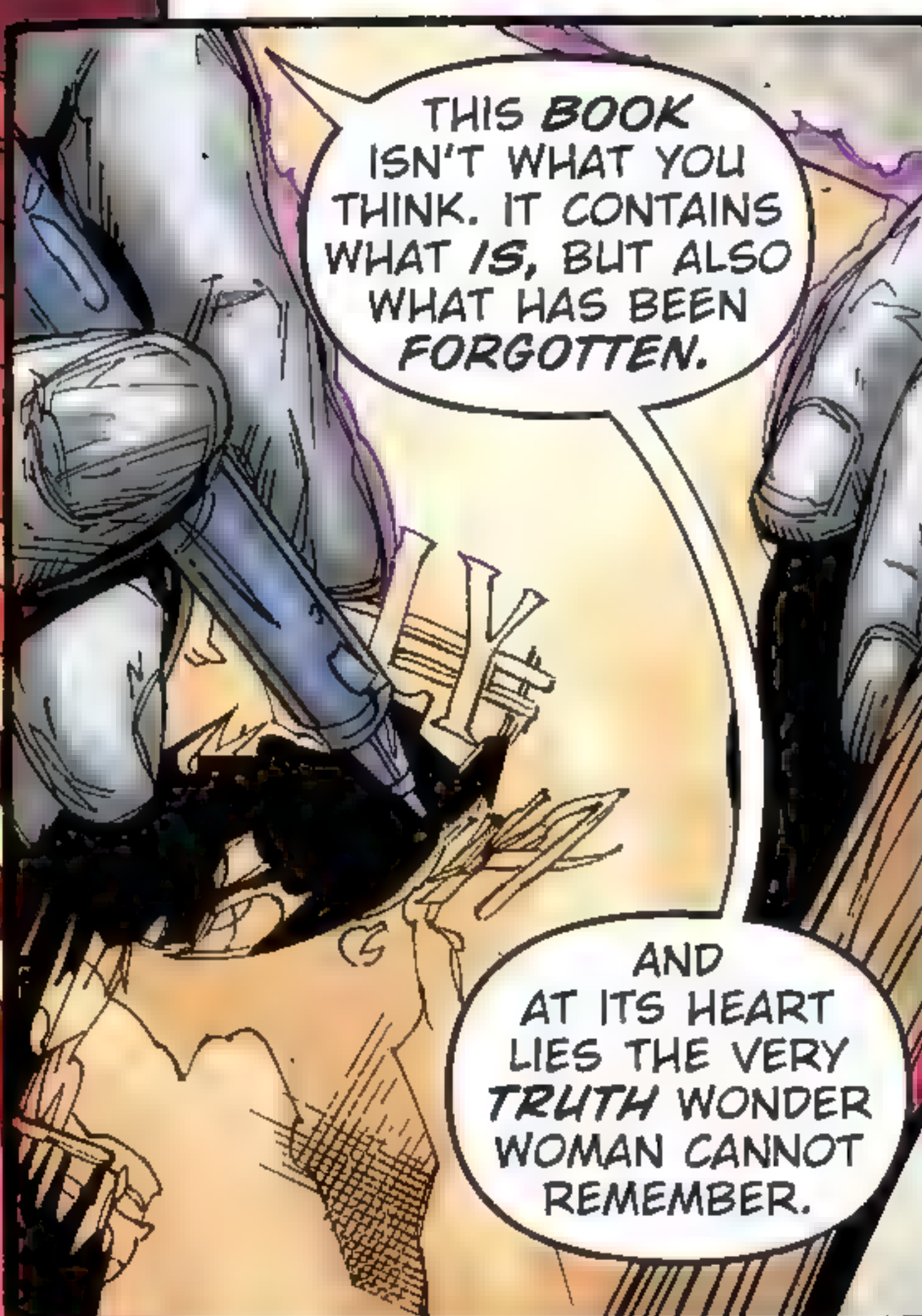


I FREED
PERPETUA FROM
HER CELL.

I UNLEASHED
HER POWER UPON
THIS WORLD.



FINE
THEN, WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT? JUST
KEEP ON WRITING
IN YOUR LITTLE
BOOK?



THIS BOOK
ISN'T WHAT YOU
THINK. IT CONTAINS
WHAT *IS*, BUT ALSO
WHAT HAS BEEN
FORGOTTEN.

AND
AT ITS HEART
LIES THE VERY
TRUTH WONDER
WOMAN CANNOT
REMEMBER.



THE
ONE THAT
MAY DESTROY
HER...



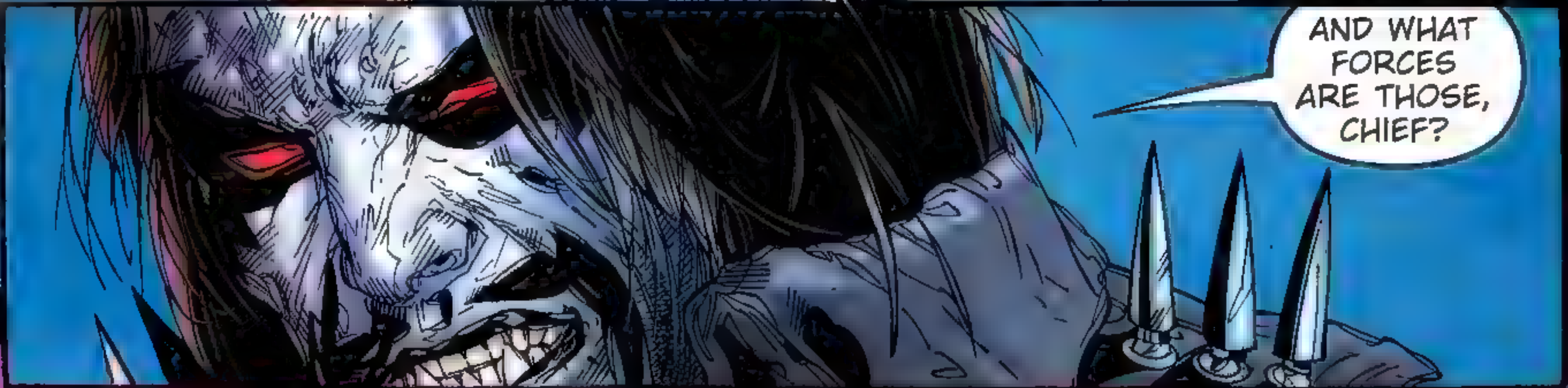
THIS AIN'T MY WORLD. AND I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE WHAT **HAPPENS** TO IT. BUT FOR WHAT YOU'RE PAYING ME? I'LL PLAY ALONG.

ALL I EXPECT OF YOU, LOBO...



...IS THAT YOU FIND THE LAST PIECES OF **DEATH METAL** BEFORE THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS FINDS US.

THE HALL OF DOOM CAN ONLY KEEP US HIDDEN SO LONG... AND I MUST FOCUS ON GATHERING MY OWN FORCES.



AND WHAT FORCES ARE THOSE, CHIEF?

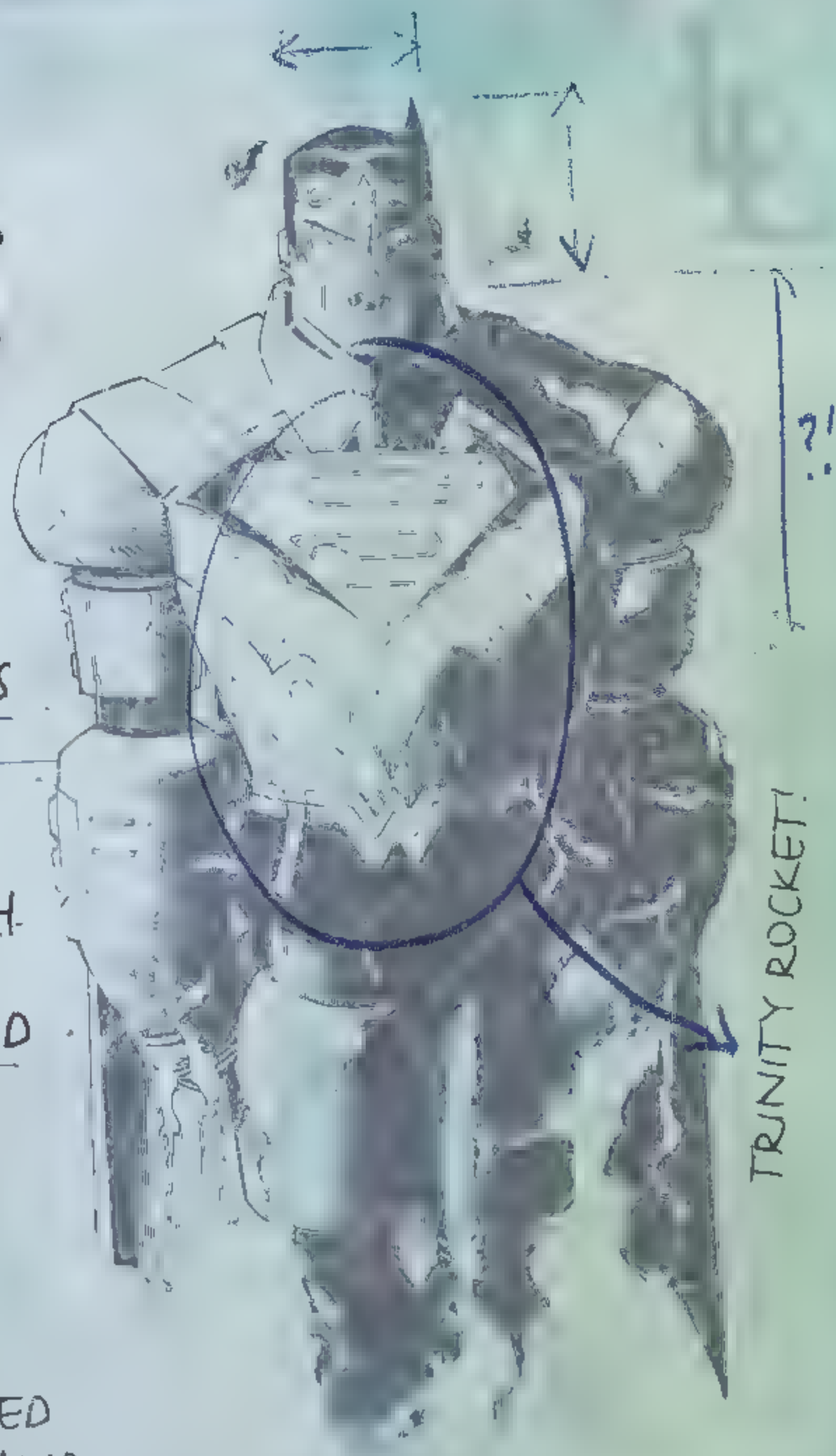


"IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET BACK MY LEGION."

TO BE CONTINUED IN JUSTICE LEAGUE #33!

ARKHAM WASTELANDS

WHAT WAS ONCE THE UNITED STATES, THIS IS THE SITE WHERE CAPTAIN ATOM WAS KILLED BY THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS AND HIS BATMEN. THE FALLOUT HAS BEEN DEVASTATING, CAUSING MUTATIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT. IT'S DESOLATE. HARLEY QUINN PROTECTS THIS LAND WITH HER TRANSFORMED HYENA. LOOKS LIKE AMANDA WALLER SENT HER SUICIDE SQUAD INTO THE REGION...AND THEIR FATE WAS WORSE THAN DEATH.



LOCATIONS:

SLAUGHTER SWAMP: AFTER THE GREEN STARTED TO BURN, SLAUGHTER SWAMP BEGAN TO ROT AND SPREAD, FUELED BY ARCANINE POWER, TAKING OVER BLUDHAVEN.

VALLEY OF STARRD: A BATMAN FROM WITHIN THE DARK MULTIVERSE ONCE CONQUERED HIS WORLD WITH STARRDS. NOW THAT COUNTLESS ARMY SLUMBERS AS IT AWAITS ORDERS.

ARKHAM ASYLUM: DR. ARKHAM'S HOUSE OF HORRORS. FULL OF HIS MANY EXPERIMENTS. THEY SAY YOU CAN HEAR THE LAUGHTER FROM MILES AWAY.

TOYMASTER'S VAULT: THE ENTRANCE IS RUMORED TO LOOK LIKE A GIANT TOY CHEST. DESERT WINDS SHIELD IT FROM VIEW.

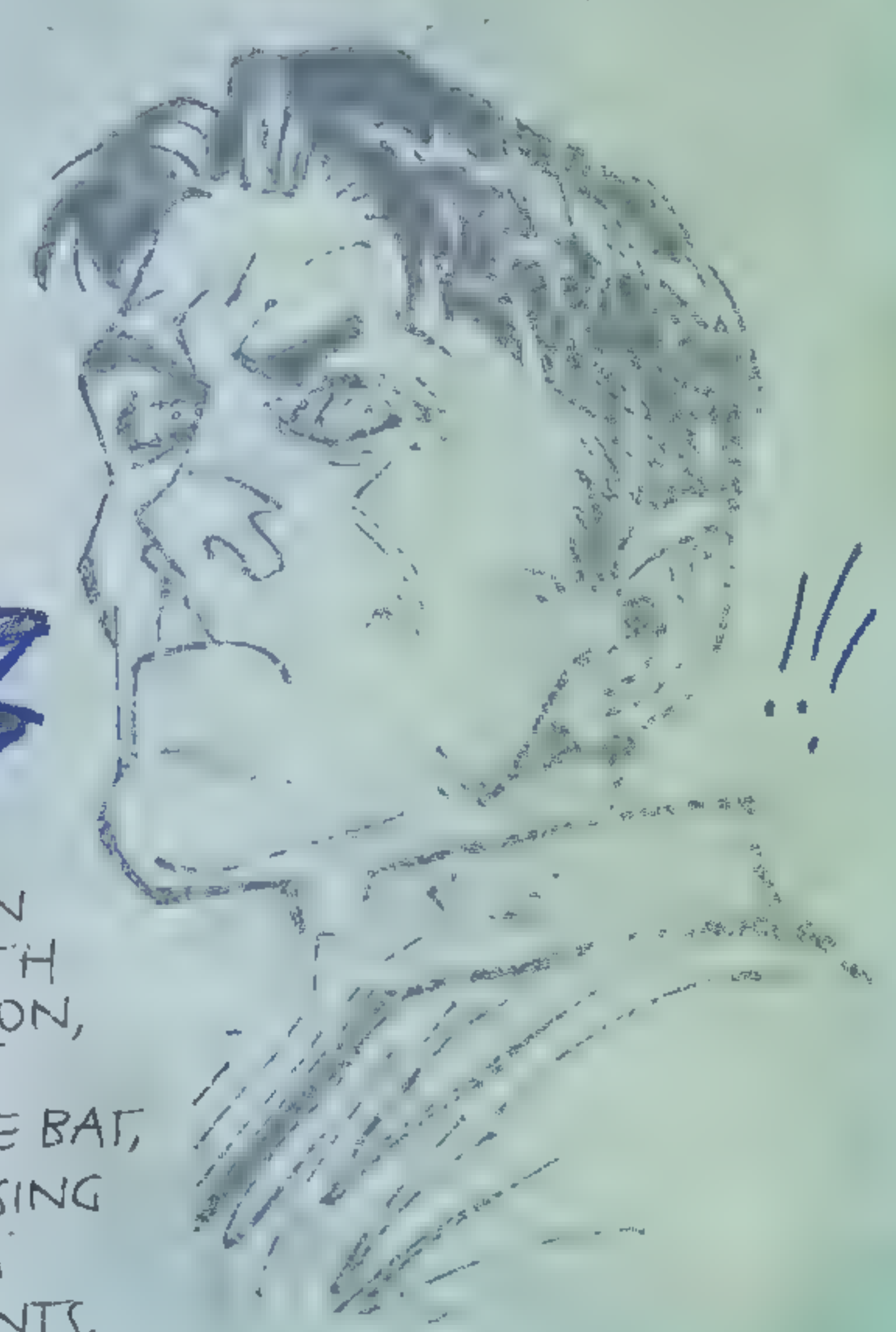
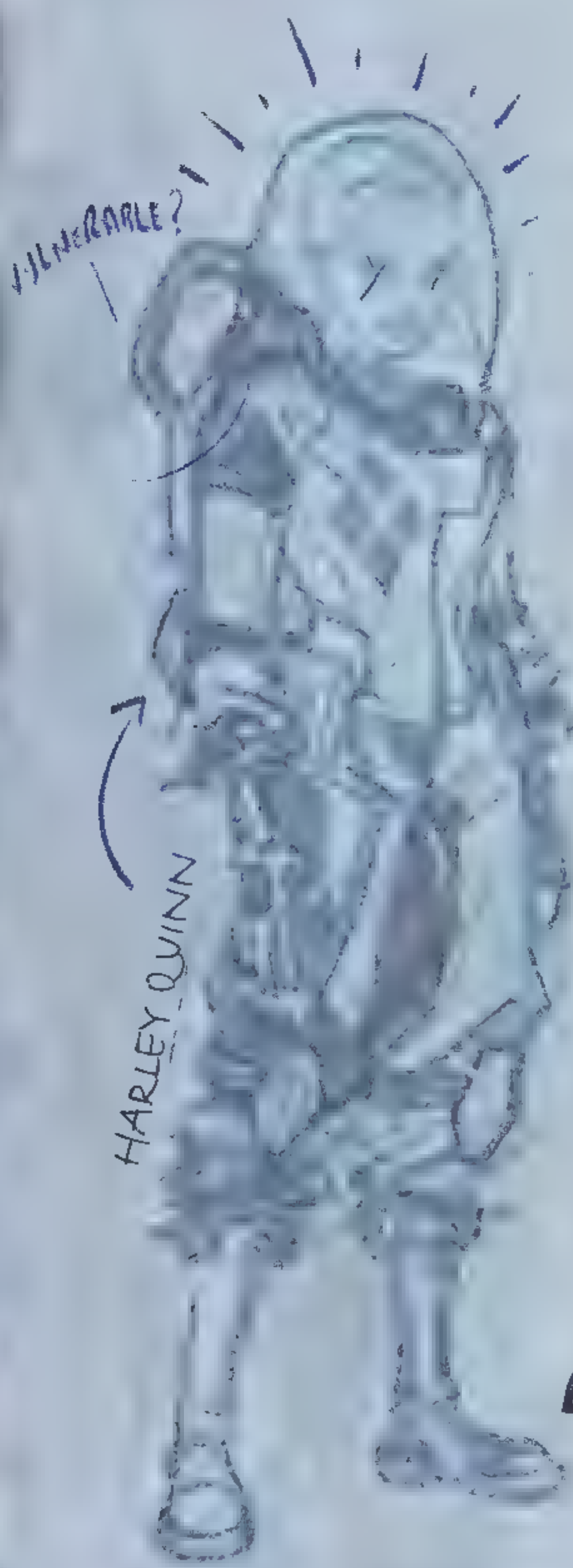
JUNGLELANDS: ANOTHER STRANGE BYPRODUCT OF THE BURNING GREEN. THIS WILD JUNGLE OF FLESH IS THOUGHT TO BE THE REMNANTS OF THE RED ON EARTH.

BLACKGATE TOWER: ONCE THOUGHT TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PRISONS ON THE PLANET, BUT WHAT PRISONERS HAVE BEEN LEFT SCREAMING INSIDE?

DARK KNIGHT RULER:

DR. ARKHAM: THIS BATMAN SEEMS OBSESSED WITH EXPERIMENTATION,

MAINLY ON HUMANS. HE'S DEVELOPED A MORE MONSTROUS AND AGGRESSIVE FORM OF VAMPIRE BAT, USING THEM AS HIS TOOLS OF WAR. HE SEEMS TO BE USING THE AMBIENT RADIATION IN THE AREA TO HELP HIM IN HIS EXPERIMENTS.



THE ARKHAM WASTELANDS.

HARLEY
TA DOC ARKHAM.
COME IN, DOC.

-SHZZT-
HARLEY! ANY--
-KRSCH-
-LEADS?-
-KZSH-

TRACKER
FOUND SOME-
THING...



...BUT
IT AIN'T
OUR MISSIN'
SUICIDE
SQUAD.



-KZSHT-
HARLEY! DID
-KRTZZH- FI
-KZSHHHH-

-KZSHHHH-

HEY, LITTLE
BUDDY...

HARLEY QUINN IN METAL QUEEN OF THE DESERT

CHIP ZDARSKY WRITER
KHARY RANDOLPH ARTIST
EMILIO LOPEZ COLORIST
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER



...I'D TAKE YA
WITH ME, BUT THIS IS
KINDA ONE OF THOSE
HUMANITARIAN
THINGS...

...NOT
A SCRAWNY
PUPPITARIAN
THING.

GRRRRR...



...RRRAHHH!!

AAHHH!



THNK!

NOPE!

RNH!

I AIN'T DYIN' IN THE DESERT BEIN' GANGED UP ON BY MUTANTS!

HRF!



NFF!
I'M... DYIN'...

RAHH!

...IN A
CHAMPAGNE-
FILLED
BATHTUB--



CRKK

FNK!

--SPRINKLED
WITH TH'
ASHES OF MY
ENEMIES--

THNK

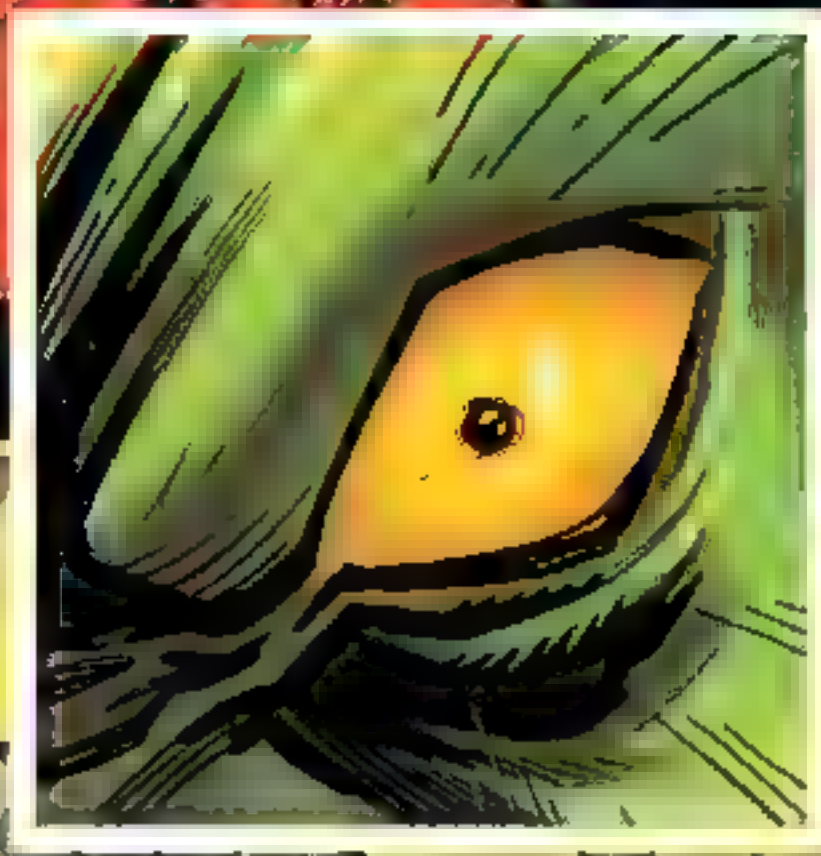
RNNNG



--WHILE
IVY TELLS ME WHAT
HAPPENED ON
TIGER KING*--

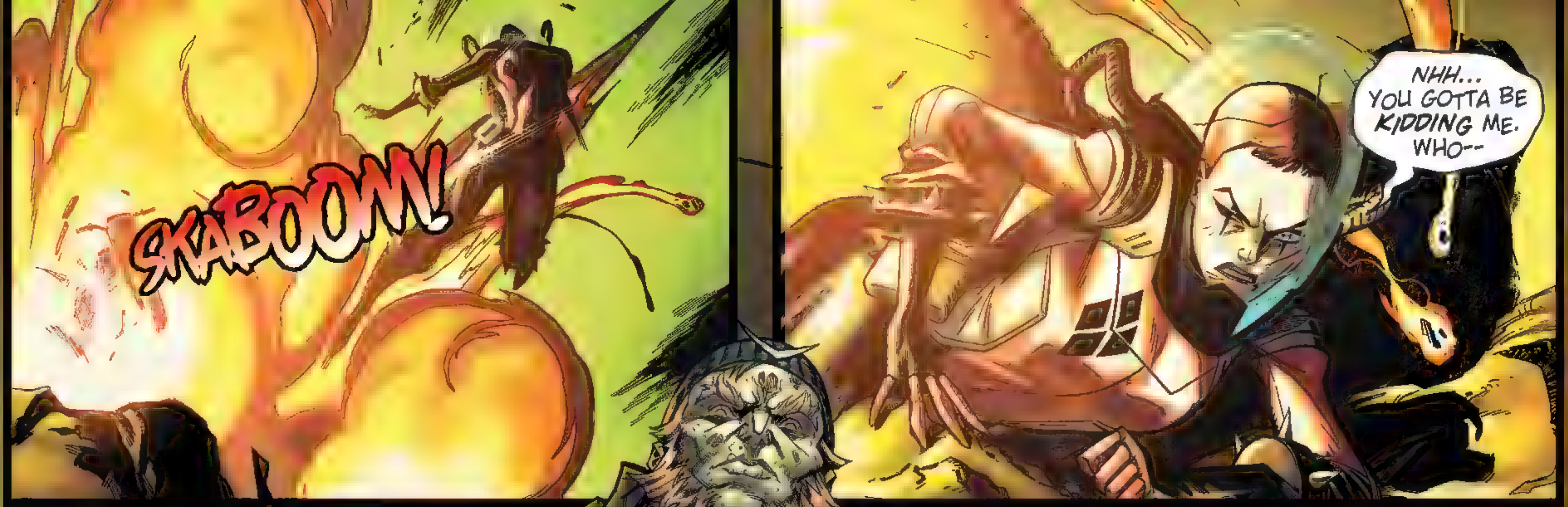
*ED. NOTE:
THIS STORY
TAKES PLACE
WHEN PEOPLE
LIKED
TIGER KING.
--KATIE

--CAUSE
SHE KNOWS I CAN'T
WATCH IT 'CAUSE IT'S
TRIGGERING--



--HUFF
PUFF--

--BUT THAT
I STILL LIKE TO
HEAR WHAT
HAPPENED ON
IT AND--







SHOMP!



CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP



...YOU'RE
MAJESTIC.

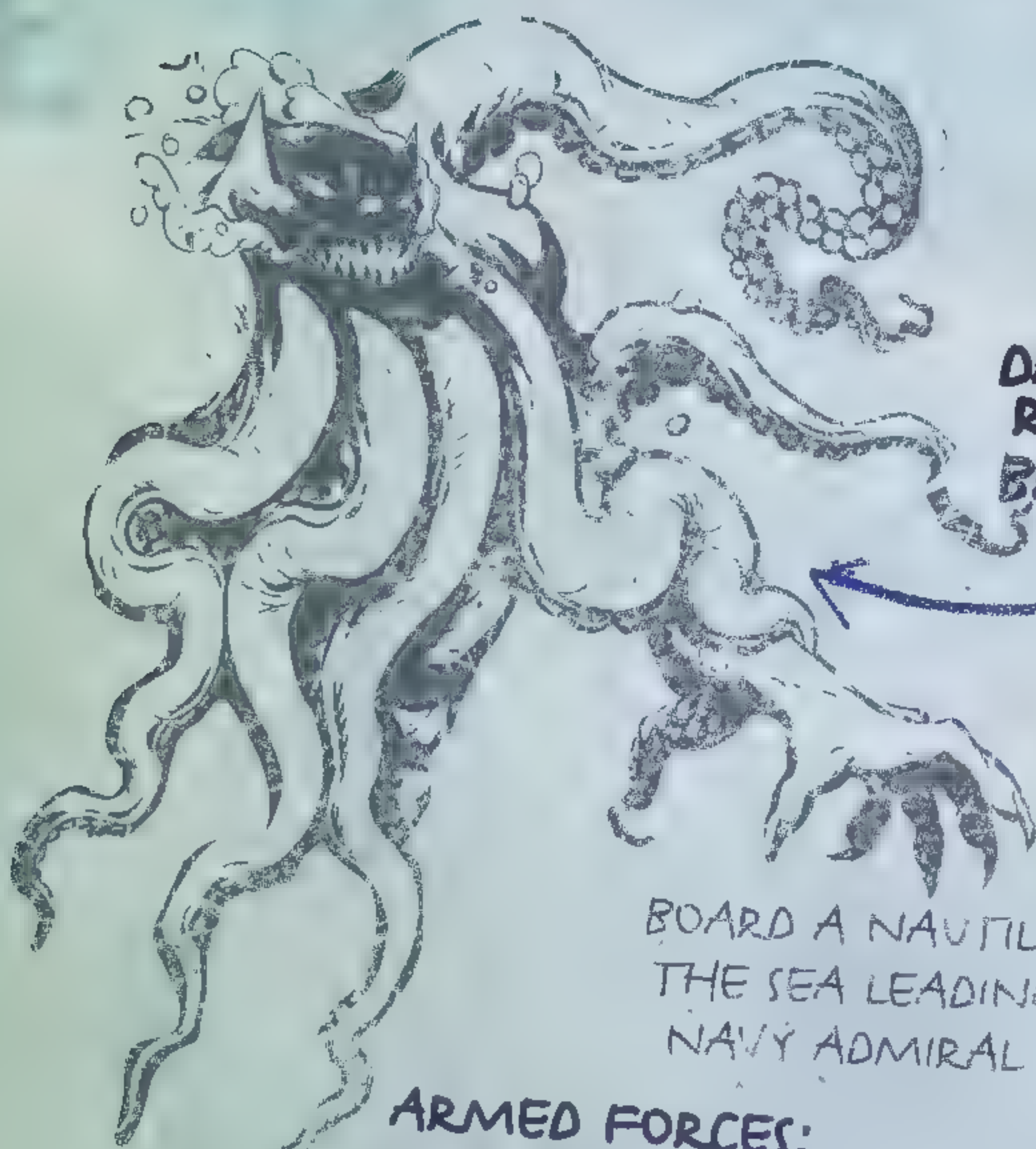


SHAME ABOUT
BOOMERANG, BUT
LIFE IS FOR THE
LIVING, YEAH?

I'M GONNA
NAME YOU
GEORGE.

OH...
MY...GOD...
LITTLE
PUPPERS...
Y-YOU'RE...
YOU'RE...

END



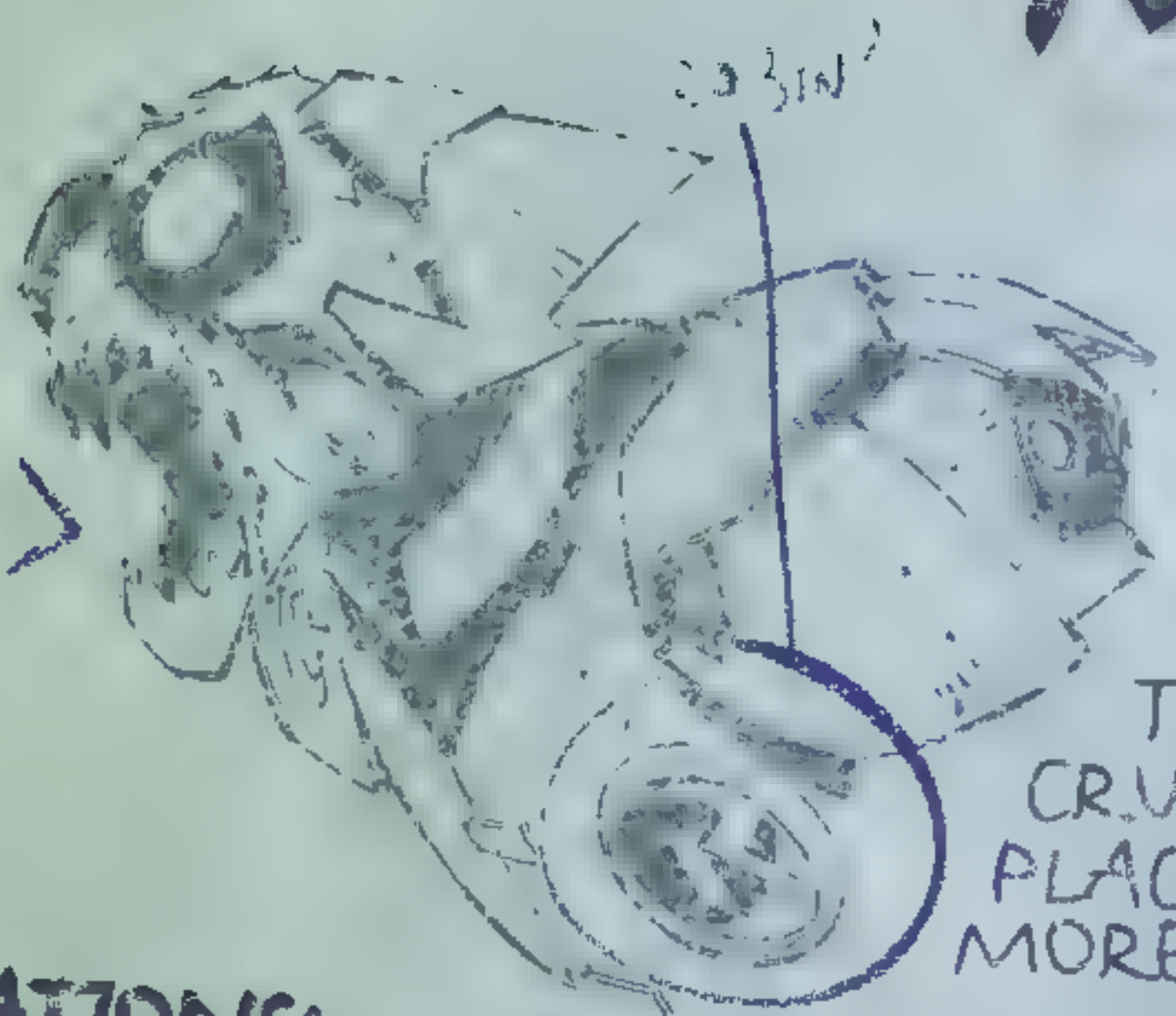
**DARK KNIGHT
RULER:
BATHOMET**

THE SEVEN SEAS

AQUAMAN HAS
MADE A DEAL WITH
THE DEADLY BATHOMET
TO PROTECT THE OCEANS OF
EARTH AND KEEP PEOPLE ON
LAND (AND ALIVE) IN THIS
LOVECRAFTIAN NIGHTMARE. ON
BOARD A NAUTILUS-CLASS SUBMARINE, HE PATROLS
THE SEA LEADING THE BLACK FLEET...A ONE-MAN
NAVY ADMIRAL FOR THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.

ARMED FORCES:
THE BLACK FLEET (LAST KNOWN SIGHTING OFF COAST
OF GOTHAM): A TERRIBLE COALITION OF VARIOUS AQUATIC
BAT-VEHICLES MAKE UP THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' NAVAL FORCES.

MEGAPOKOLIPS



AS THE DARKFATHER BUILT HIS NEW
APOKOLIPS TO TRAP SUPERMAN AND FUEL
THIS WORLD'S CRUEL SUN, HIS TECHNOLOGY
SPREAD AND TWISTED THIS CONTINENT
WITH ANTI-LIFE. MY CITY OF TOMORROW
HAS TWISTED INTO A NIGHTMARE VISION OF
THE FUTURE, WHERE ALIE. I TECHNOLOGY
CRUSHES HUMAN INNOVATION. THERE IS NO
PLACE IN THIS HORROR WORLD I HATE
MORE FERVENTLY.

LOCATIONS:

METROPOLIS: RUINS OF MY FORMER HOME, OVERSEEN BY THE TYRANT SUN, SOLARIS, A TRIDE
WHAT ONCE WAS THE DAILY PLANET.

MACHINE CITY ONE: THE A.I.S OF THE WORLD Banded TOGETHER TO
FIGHT, BUT WERE OVERCOME BY BATMANHUNTER AND HIS MANHUNTER
ARMY. THEY SEEK TO RE-CREATE THEIR HOMEWORLD OF BIOT.

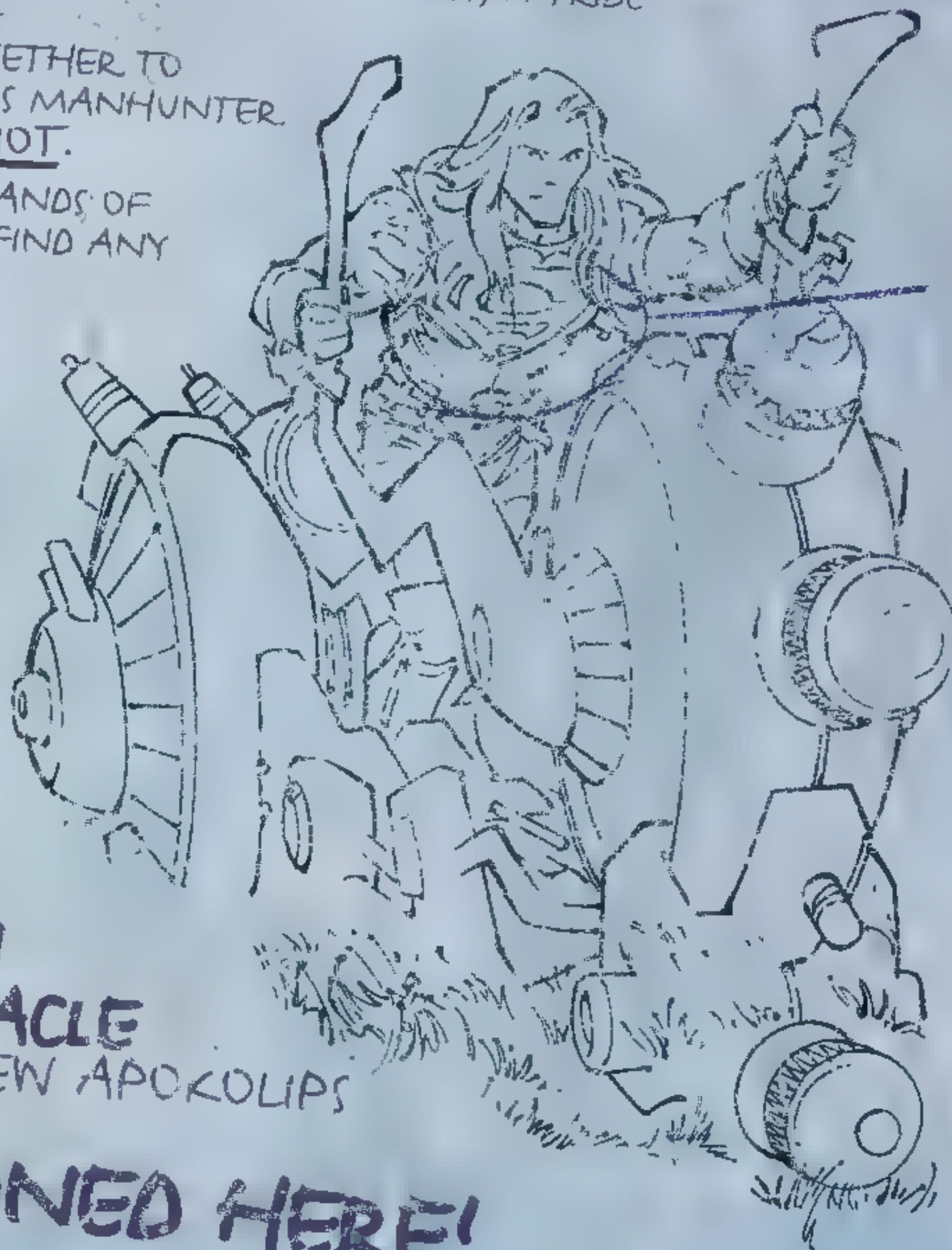
VALLEY OF THE RAYDON RINGS: A GRAVEYARD FOR THOUSANDS OF
LANTERNS. THEIR RINGS STILL GLOW BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FIND ANY
NEW WORTHY BEARERS.

SKYPORT: PORTAL TO NEW APOKOLIPS (OFF-WORLD, IN THE
HEART OF WHAT WAS ONCE EARTH'S YELLOW SUN),
MANNED BY THE DARKFATHER'S PARADOBINS AND FUELED
BY THE COMPUTING POWER OF HIS ALFRED BOXES.

WARWORLD: AN ARENA FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE
DARK MULTIVERSE BATMEN THAT NOW RULE EARTH. IT'S
SAID THEY PULL THEIR GREATEST ENEMIES FROM THE
DARK MULTIVERSE AND FORCE THEM TO FIGHT TO
THE DEATH.

COAST CITY: THE CITY WITHOUT FEAR'S ONCE AGAIN A
GHOST TOWN, PATROLLED BY A BATMAN WIELDING A
SINESTRO CORPS RING

**DARK KNIGHT RULER:
DARKFATHER**



KNOWN PLAYERS:

- SUPERMAN
- MISTER MIRACLE
- GUARDIAN OF NEW APOKOLIPS

THE HEROES ARE IMPRISONED HERE!

The Seven Seas.

THE UMIBOZU.

SO RARE A CREATURE,
EVEN MONSTERS
THOUGHT IT A MYTH.

YET HERE IT RISES
BEFORE US, TEMPTED
FROM THE DEPTHS BY
OUR FLEET OF SHIPS.

HUNGRY FOR
THE SOULS OF
MY CREW.

CRRASSH

MY APOLOGIES,
FRIEND, BUT YOU WILL
HAVE NO OFFERING
TODAY!

THE
UMIBOZU

Becky Cloonan - Story and Art
Tamra Bonvillain - colorist
Steve Wands - letterer

IT WAS SAID
THAT YOUR KIND
WERE NO MORE--
THAT YOU NEVER
EXISTED IN THE
FIRST PLACE!

BUT I
SOUGHT YOU
OUT JUST THE
SAME.

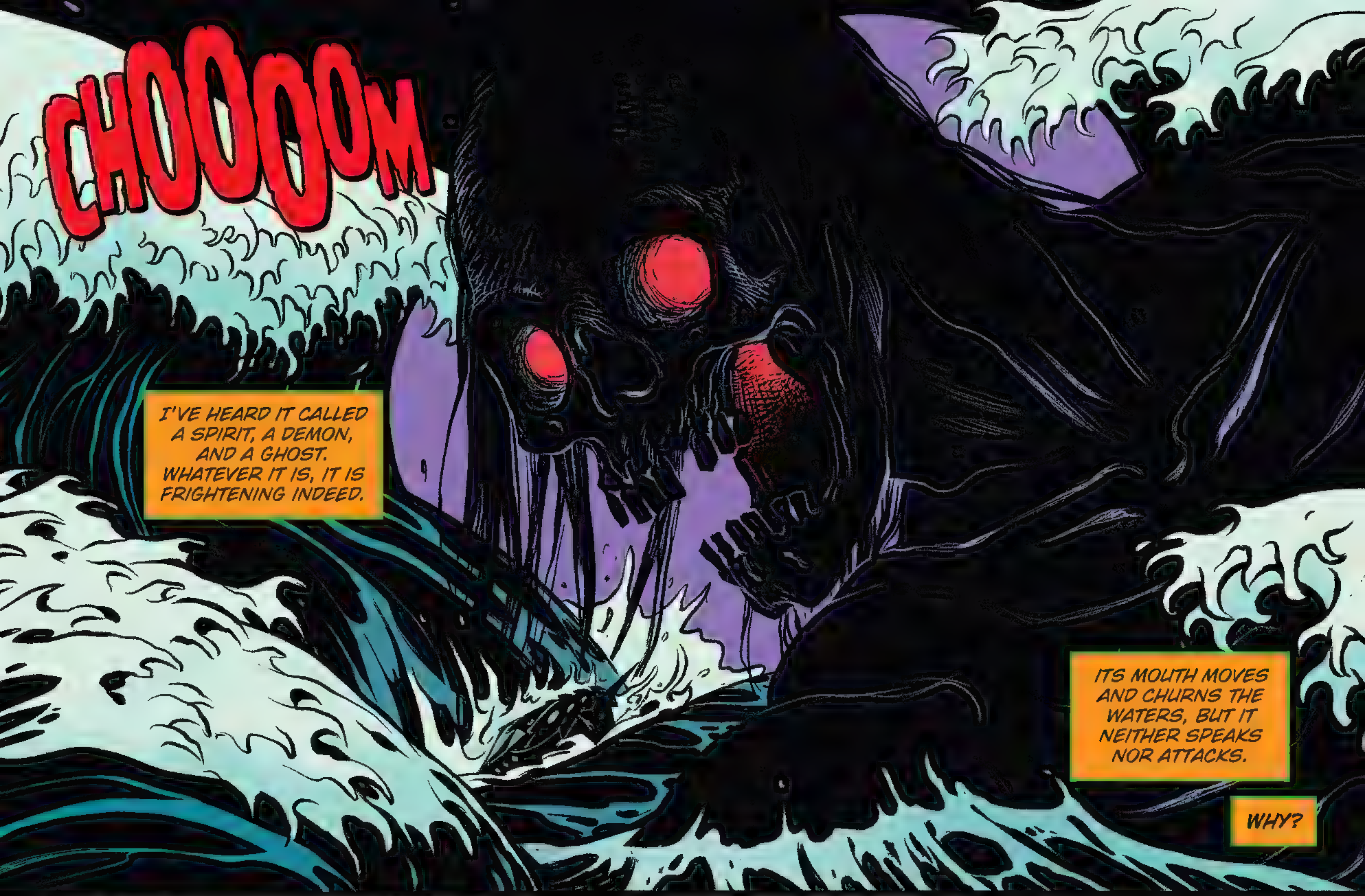
AND I ASK
YOU TO JOIN
OUR FIGHT!

IT DOESN'T
RESPOND. IT'S
UNCLEAR IF IT EVEN
UNDERSTANDS...

...OR IF IT'S
EVEN ALIVE.

NO
MATTER.

IF IT IS BORN
OF THE SEA,
IT WILL OBEY.



CHOOOOM

I'VE HEARD IT CALLED
A SPIRIT, A DEMON,
AND A GHOST.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT IS
FRIGHTENING INDEED.

ITS MOUTH MOVES
AND CHURNS THE
WATERS, BUT IT
NEITHER SPEAKS
NOR ATTACKS.

WHY?



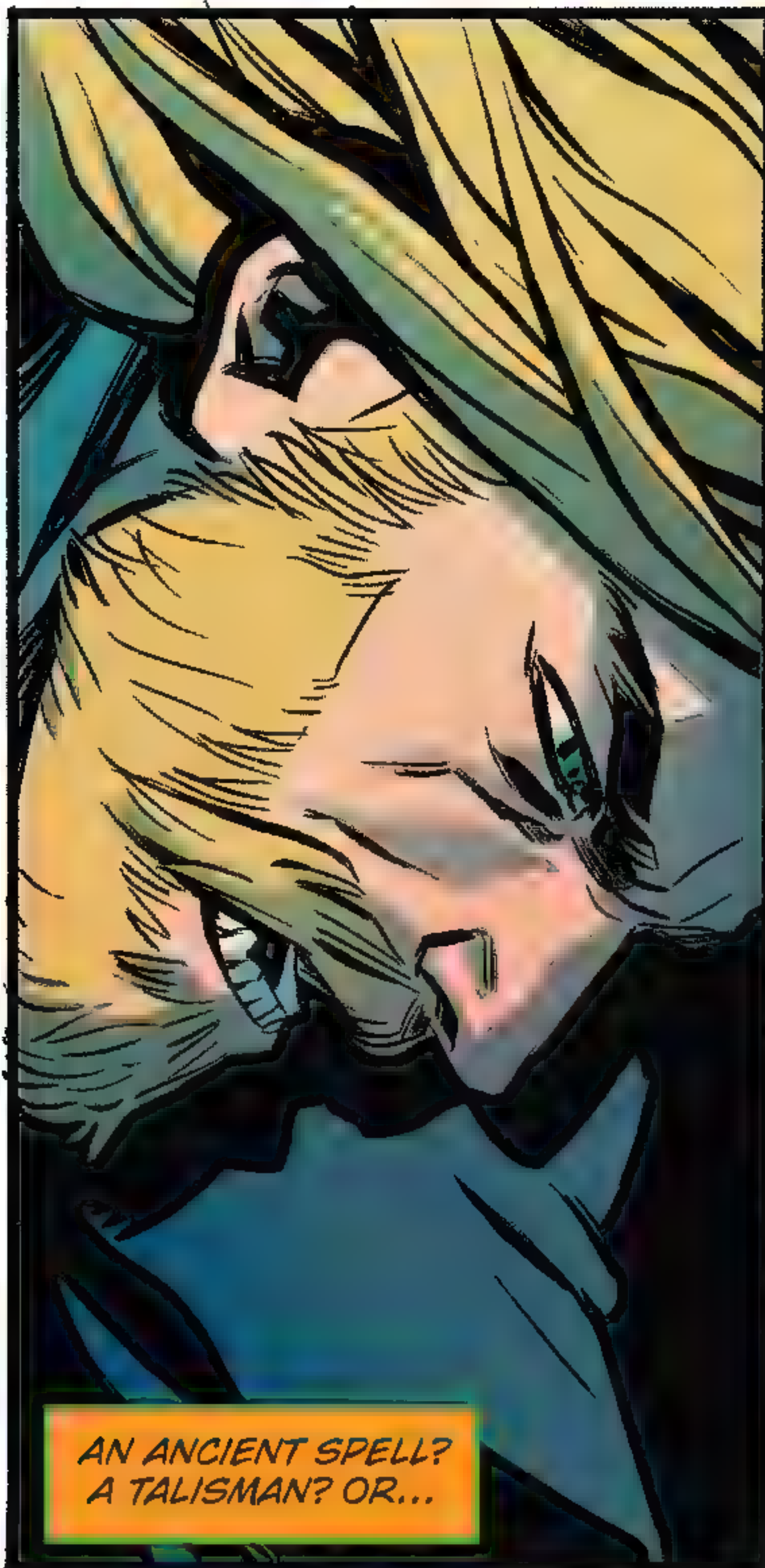
SKLUSH

THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY TO GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF THIS...

...AND THAT
IS DOWN.



IT DOESN'T
STRAY FROM
THESE WATERS.
SOMETHING MUST
ANCHOR IT TO
THIS PLACE.



AN ANCIENT SPELL?
A TALISMAN? OR...



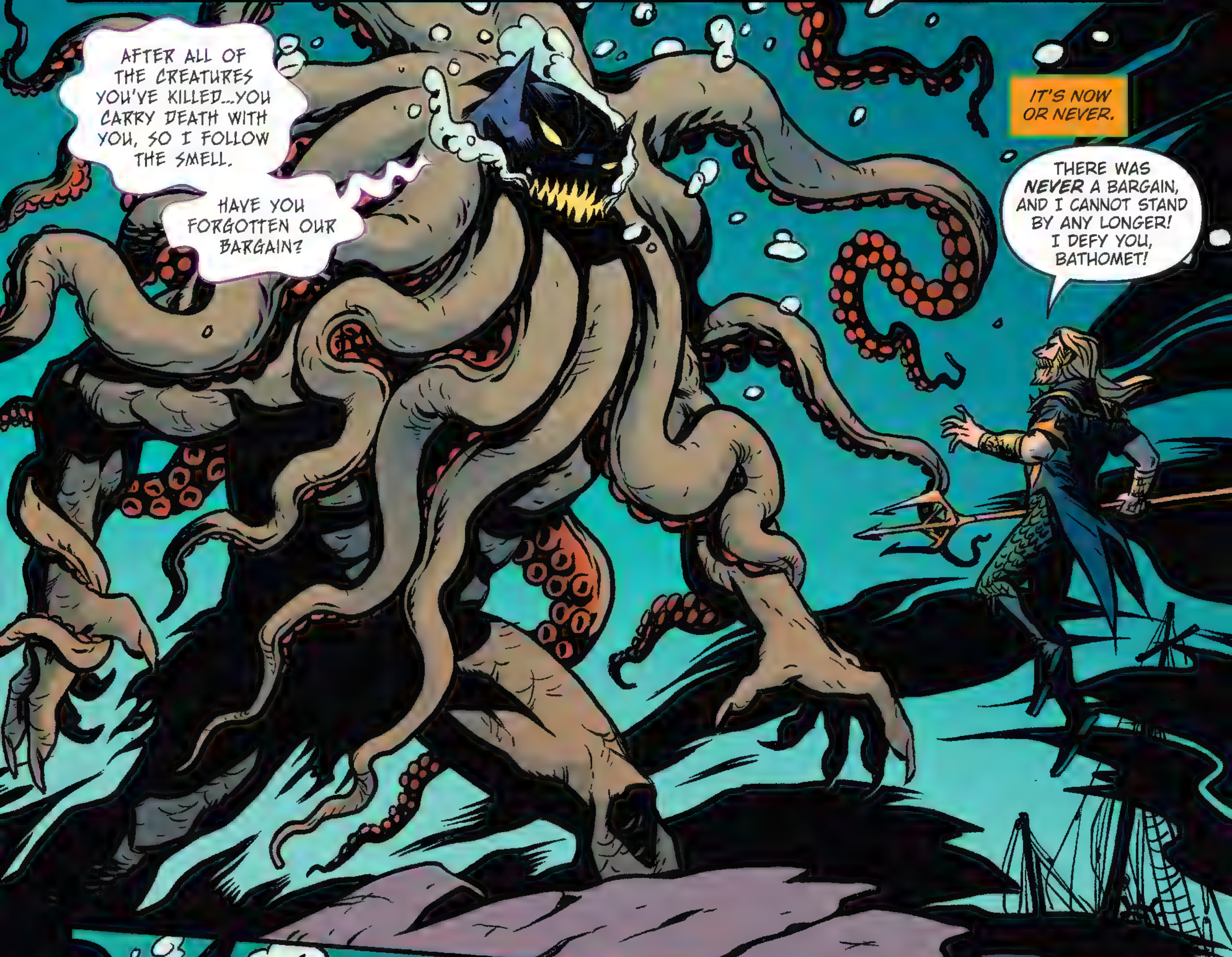
...A CURSE.

I SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN.



DO YOU
REALLY THINK
THIS MINDLESS
ABOMINATION WILL
AID YOU,
AQUAMAN?

HOW DID
YOU--?!



AFTER ALL OF
THE CREATURES
YOU'VE KILLED...YOU
CARRY DEATH WITH
YOU, SO I FOLLOW
THE SMELL.

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN OUR
BARGAIN?

IT'S NOW
OR NEVER.

THERE WAS
NEVER A BARGAIN,
AND I CANNOT STAND
BY ANY LONGER!
I DEFY YOU,
BATHOMET!



DEFY...?
HAH...

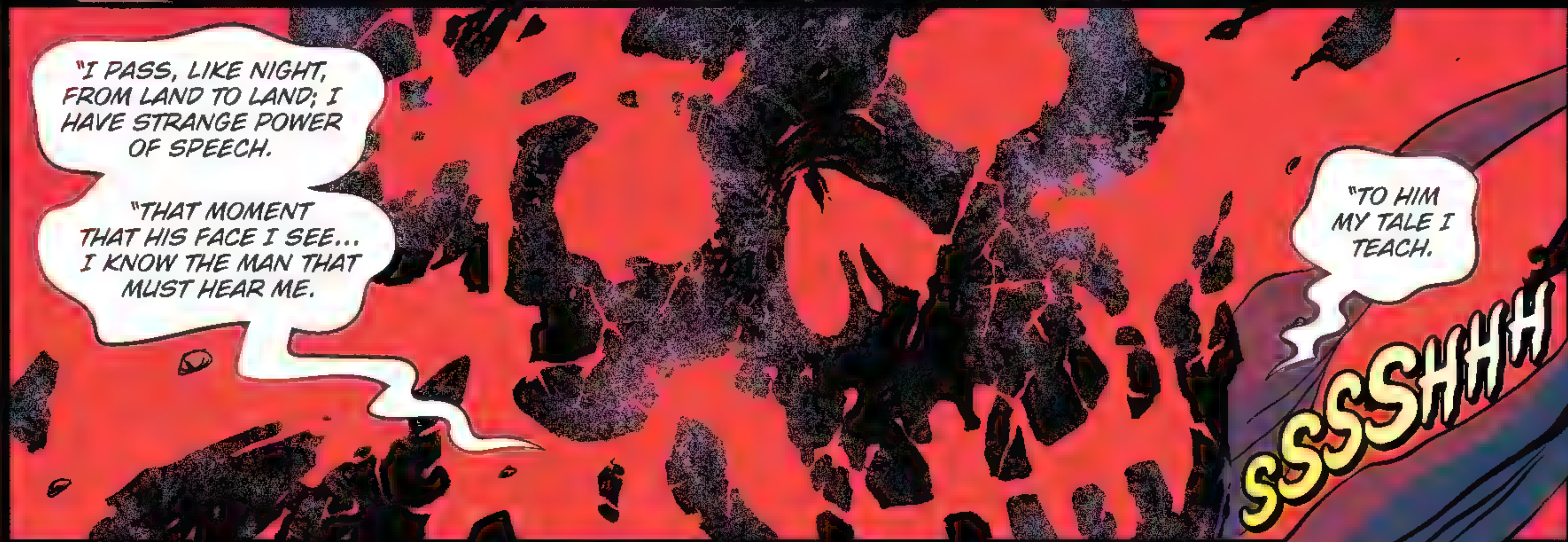
HA HA
HA HA HA
HA!



FOOL.
NO ONE
DEFIES
ME!

HNNNGH!

THE UMIBOZU'S
THE ONLY ~~HNNNGH~~
ONE OF ITS KIND...!



END

THE BAT-MAGE RIPPED OPEN THE DOOR TO HELL ITSELF TO CONQUER ALL THE REALMS OF MAGIC ON THE PLANET. IT IS LITERALLY HELL ON EARTH.

THE HELLSCAPE

LOCATIONS:

THEMYSCIRA: THE MAGIC THAT ONCE HAD PARADISE ISLAND FROM THE WORLD HAS BEEN TWISTED TO MAKE IT THE MOST IMPENETRABLE PRISON EVER KNOWN TO HUMANITY, HOLDING THE WORLD'S WORST VILLAINS, WITH WONDER WOMAN ITS UNWILLING WARDEN.

BRIMSTONE BAY: A BEACH OF ASH AND FIRE FULL OF DEMONIC MONSTERS. THEY SERVE AS PROTECTION FOR THEMYSCIRA.

CRYPT OF HERDES: VALHALLA ONCE SAT IN THE SHADOW OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE, OUTSIDE OF WHAT WAS KNOWN AS WASHINGTON, DC. THE RESTING PLACE OF FALLEN HERDES, STILL GUARDED BY A ROTATION OF TRUSTED ALLIES...

THE BURNING GREEN: THE BAT-MAGE TRAPPED THE PARLIAMENT OF TREES IN CONSTANT FLAME. HE KEEPS THE ELEMENTAL MAGIC OF THE EARTH IN AGONY AND DESPAIR, INSTANTLY DESTROYING THE ONCE-LUSH FORESTS AND PLANT LIFE OF THE PLANET.

AVALON: A PIT OF TARTARUS, ON FIRE. NOT EVEN MISTER MIRACLE COULD ESCAPE IT.

GEMWORLD: SCATTERED GEMS RIDDLE THE BURNING LANDSCAPE, ECHOING A ONCE-GREAT MAGICAL KINGDOM.

SKARTARIS: FROZEN. RUMORED TO BE A HAVEN TO THOSE WHO CAN WIELD ICE AND COLD, BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO TRAVEL FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT.

CITY OF MYSTERY: HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF GENERATIONS OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MAGICIANS, AND UNTOUCHED BY HELLFIRE. THE TOWER OF FATE STANDS AT THE CENTER.

FANCETT CITY: THE ROCK OF ETERNITY CRASHED HERE, UNLEASHING THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MAN, WHO TOY WITH ANY MORTAL FOOLISH ENOUGH TO CROSS THEIR PATHS. EVEN THE MAGIC WORD CAN'T SAVE YOU HERE.

FORTRESS OF SORROW: BELIEVED TO BE THE REFUGE OF MR. FREEZE.

CENTRAL CITY: SPEED FORCE STORMS HAVE BEEN CONSTANT SINCE THE WORLD CHANGED, RAVAGING THE CITY WITH FRAGMENTS OF HYPERTIME.

DARK KNIGHT RULER: BAT-MAGE

ON HIS EARTH, THIS BATMAN LEARNED THE ART OF MAGIC FROM ZATARA, RATHER THAN CONTINUING ON HIS JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD. HE WOULD GO ON TO LEARN OF THE POWERS OF CHAOS MAGIC. HE KILLED MORDRU, BOUND ETRIGAKI TO HIS SOUL, AND CONQUERED HIS EARTH. HE IS A CUNNING, QUICK MAGICIAN, AND HIS WAND IS POWERED BY THE CAPTURED SPIRIT OF THE SPECTRE ITSELF. HIS HEAD IS SHAVED, WITH A BAT-SHAPED PENTAGRAM BURNED INTO THE SIDE OF IT.

KNOWN INMATES:

THE RIDDLER, CAPTAIN COLD, JOKER, EVERY VILLAIN KNOWN TO EARTH.

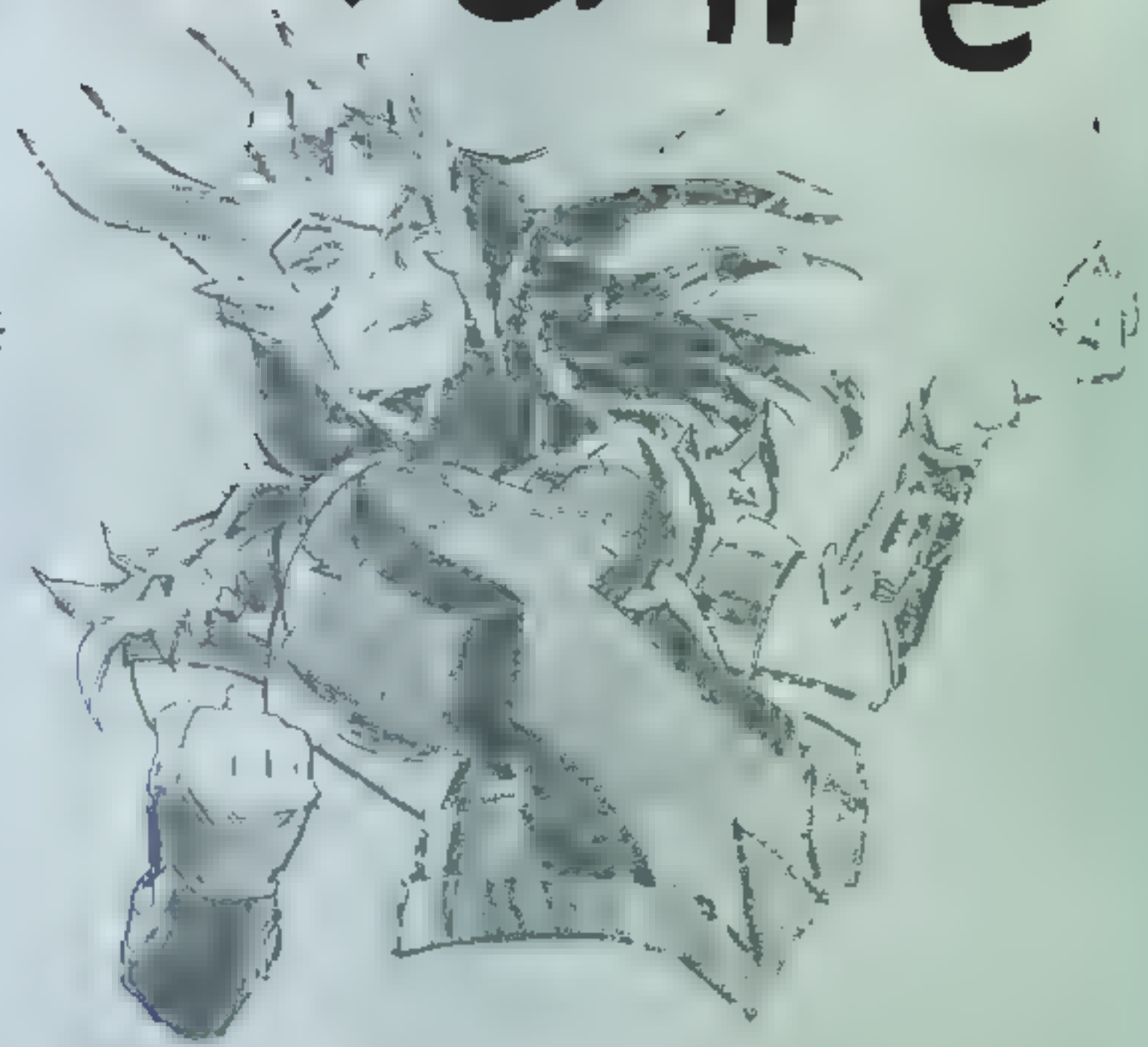
KNOWN PLAYERS:

WONDER WOMAN: I BELIEVE SHE HAS MELTED DOWN HER INVISIBLE JET INTO A WEAPON OF UNSPEAKABLE POWER. PERHAPS A CHAINSAW?

CHAINSAW OF TRUTH?

SWAMP THING (FORMERLY ALEC HOLLAND)

THE AMAZONS: ON THE ANTENNAE WITH THE REST OF EARTH'S HUMANS.





THE STAIRWAY IS CUT
DIRECTLY INTO THE
CRUST OF THE EARTH.

THE WALLS GLOW
WITH A SICKLY,
UNNERVING LIGHT.



SHE
RUNS.

THE DESPERATE NEED TO
FEEL THE SUN ON HER FACE,
TO FEEL THE BREEZE ON HER
SKIN, PROPELS POISON IVY
FORWARD, FEAR TEARING AT
HER AS SHE GOES FASTER
AND FASTER!



BUT SHE IS
NOT ALONE.

TURN BACK
NOW, IVY.

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

NEVER!

I WARNED
YOU.

HNNNGH!


IT IS KNOWN THAT
THE KEEPER OF THIS
PLACE--THE WARDEN
OF HELL--IS CHARGED
WITH KEEPING ALL ITS
INHABITANTS SECURED
BELOWGROUND.

NO!

I'D
RATHER DIE
THEN GO BACK
TO THAT CURSED
HOLE YOU'VE
ENTOMBED
US ALL IN!

WHAT THE CAPTIVES
COULDN'T POSSIBLY
UNDERSTAND IS THIS
IS NOT A PUNISHMENT.

THEY'RE BETTER
OFF IN THE DARK...



YOU CANNOT
GO BACK TO THE
SURFACE, IVY. IT IS
FOR YOUR **OWN**
GOOD.

IF YOU DO
NOT BELIEVE ME,
TAKE THE **LASSO**--
LET IT SHOW YOU
THE **TRUTH.**

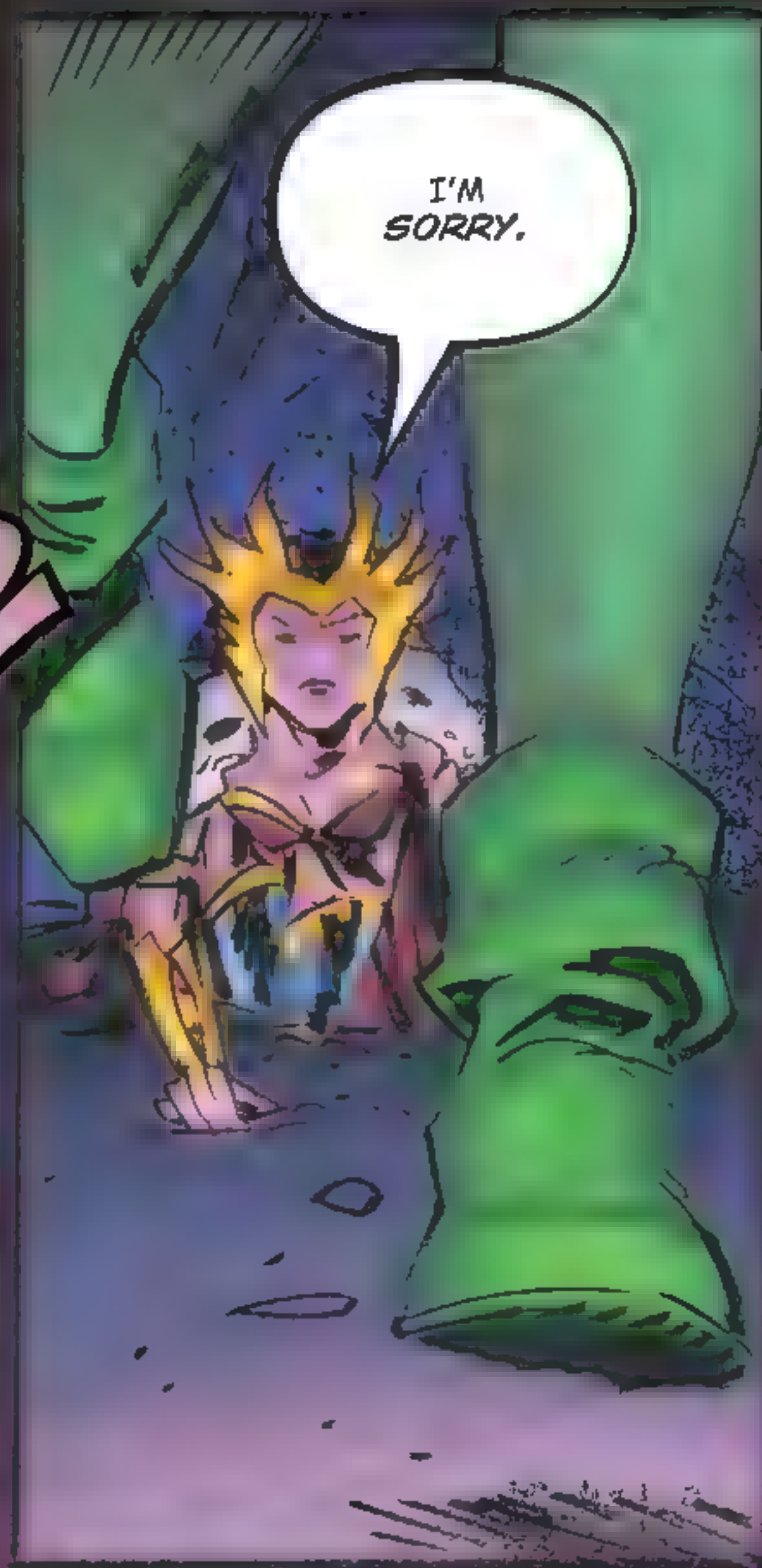
THE ONLY
TRUTH A JAILER
KNOWS IS THE COLD
DARKNESS OF
THE **CAGE!**

WHEN I
SAID I'D **DIE**,
I WOULD ALSO
HAPPILY TAKE
YOU WITH ME,
WONDER
WOMAN!

I'M SORRY FOR
WHAT COMES
NEXT, IVY.

TRULY,
I AM.

THUCK!



BELOW THE SURFACE,
THERE IS SAFETY AND
BLISS IN IGNORANCE, BUT
IN THE OPEN AIR, THERE
IS ONLY PAIN AND LOSS.

WHILE POISON IVY PLOTTED IN THE
DARK, THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS
REMADE THE WORLD IN HIS IMAGE--
ARID, EMPTY, BRUTAL, AND BURNING.

IT WAS ALL WONDER WOMAN
COULD DO TO KEEP HIS INFLUENCE
FROM SEEPING INTO THE STRANGE
HAVEN SHE CURATED IN THE
UNDERGROUND, TO KEEP HER
CHARGES' MINDS UNTOUCHED.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!





LATER...

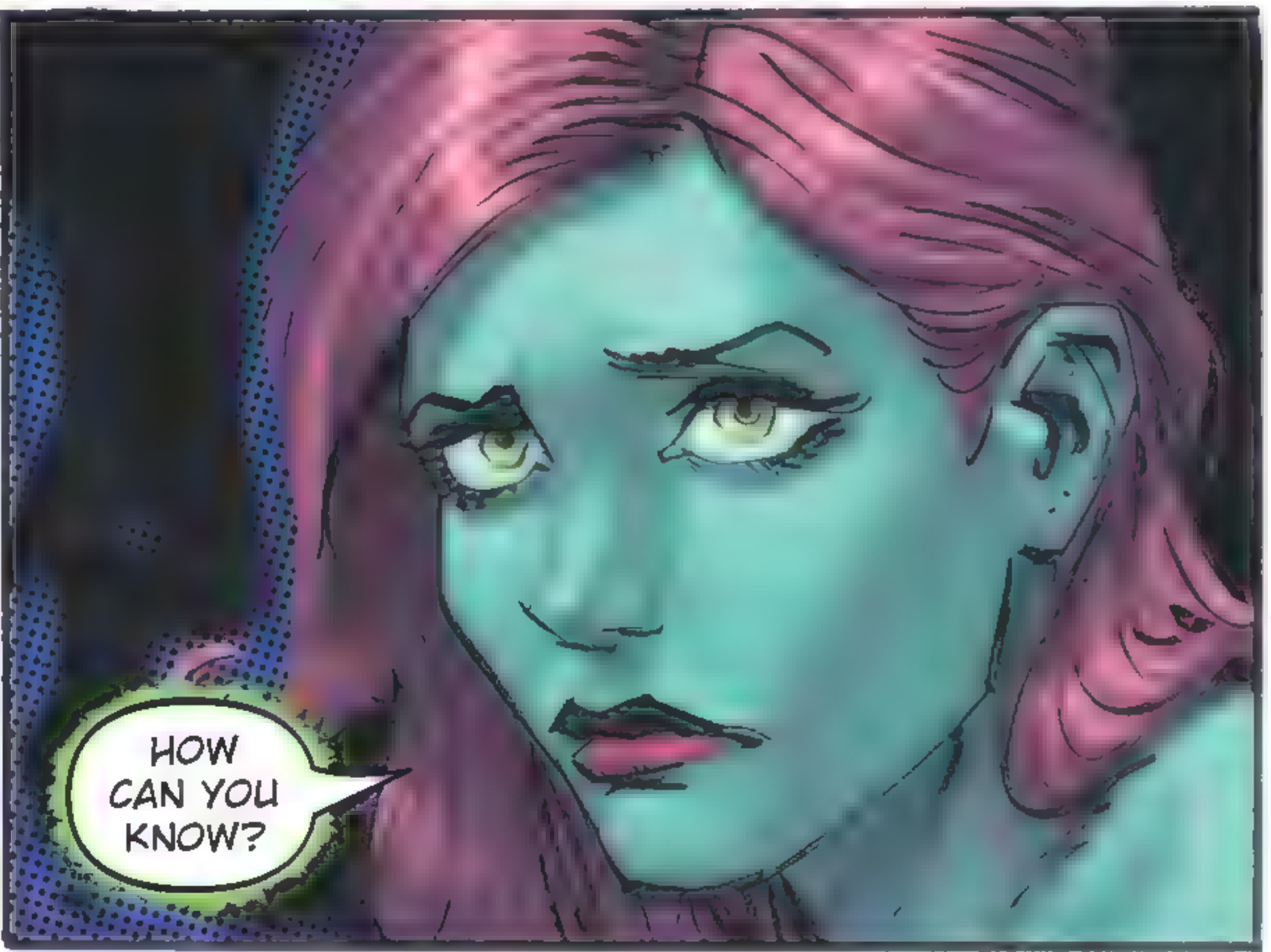
TOKTOKTOKTOK

...HAVE YOU
COME TO SAY
"I TOLD YOU SO,"
WONDER
WOMAN?

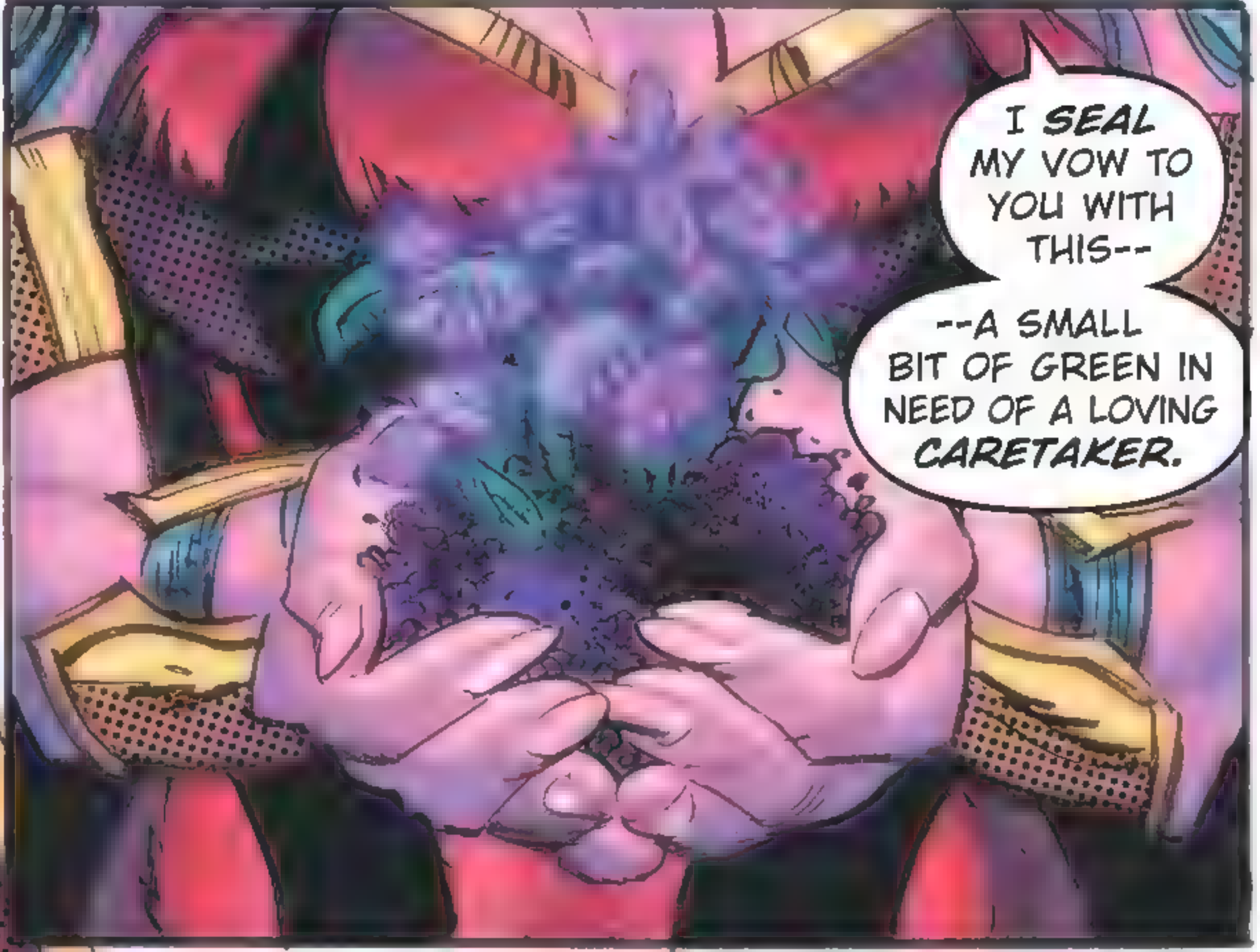
I KNOW THE
DEVASTATION
IN YOUR HEART, IVY.
AND I AM TRULY
SORRY.

BUT AS
IRREPARABLE
AS THINGS SEEM,
WE HAVE FOUND
SMALL GRAINS
OF HOPE.

WE
WILL TAKE
BACK OUR
WORLD.



HOW
CAN YOU
KNOW?



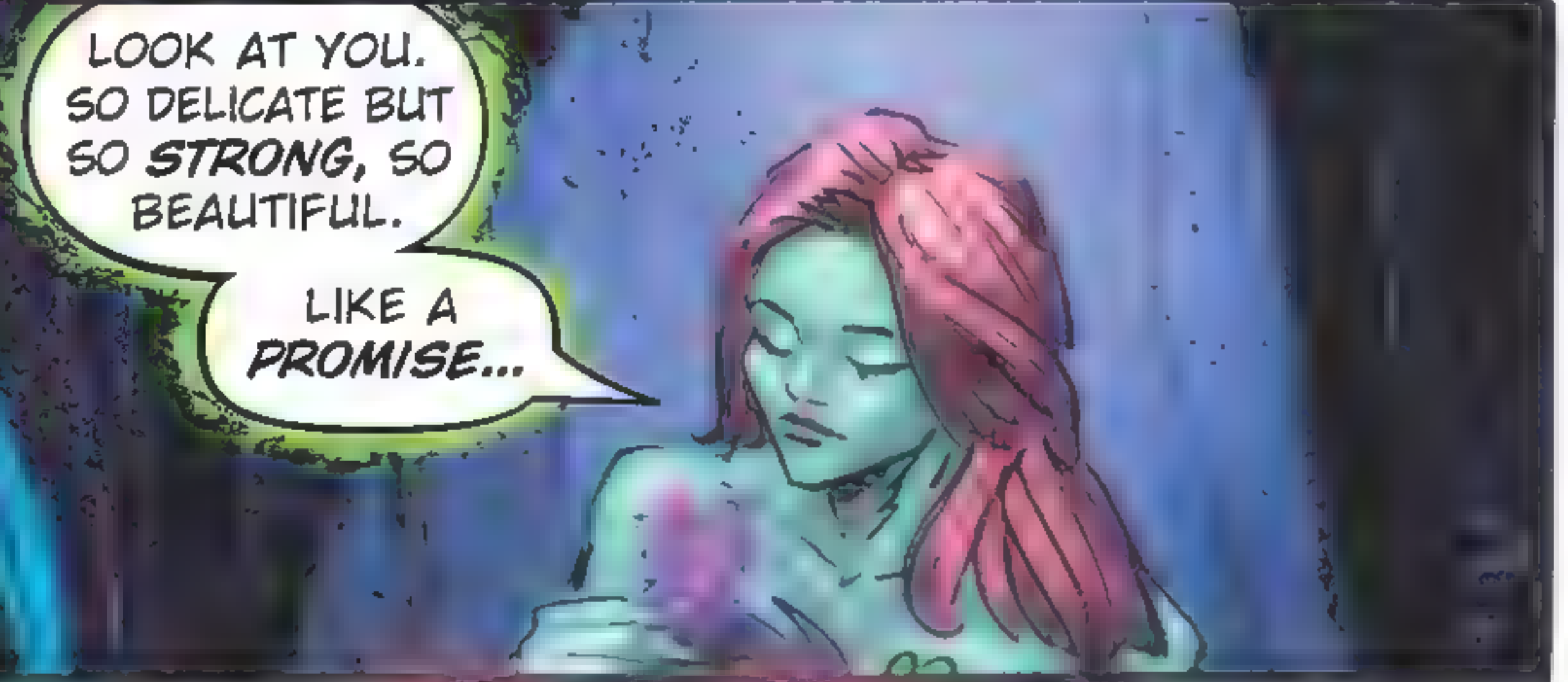
I SEAL
MY VOW TO
YOU WITH
THIS--

--A SMALL
BIT OF GREEN IN
NEED OF A LOVING
CARETAKER.



LOOK AT YOU.
SO DELICATE BUT
SO STRONG, SO
BEAUTIFUL.

LIKE A
PROMISE...



Seeds of Hope

...THE BEGINNING.



VITA AYALA
WRITER
LUIS GUERRERO
COLORIST

DAN PANOSIAN
ARTIST
FERRAN DELGADO
LETTERER

GOTHAM

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS, NOW ALL-POWERFUL, REMADE GOTHAM CITY INTO A CONTINENT STRETCHING HUNDREDS OF MILES: A NIGHTMARISH INFINITE METROPOLIS, DEVOID OF HUMANS, WITH GIANT JOKER DRAGONS ROAMING THE SKIES, TORCHING ALL WHO DARE PASS BELOW.



LOCATIONS:

SGT. ROCK'S BUNKER: TRUE LOCATION UNKNOWN.

CASTLE BAT: THIS BATMAN WAS ONCE A LIVING CITY, AND NOW TAKES HIS FORM AS THE HOME TO THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS AND HIS DARK COUNCIL. THIS IS THE BEATING HEART OF THE METALVERSE.

WAYNE MANOR: WHEN THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS TWISTED THE WORLD WITH INCREDIBLE COSMIC POWER, HE DESTROYED THE HOME OF HIS ENEMY. HIMSELF, BRICK BY BRICK.

CRIME ALLEY: THE ONLY PLACE IN THE LABYRINTHINE INFINITE CITY ALLOWED TO STAY INTACT. THE BATMEN OF MANY DARK WORLDS ALL COME TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE PARENTS THEY LOST.

MONARCH MOVIE THEATRE: AN ODD PLACE OF CELEBRATION. THE MARK OF ZORRO PLAYS ON REPEAT IN TRIBUTE.



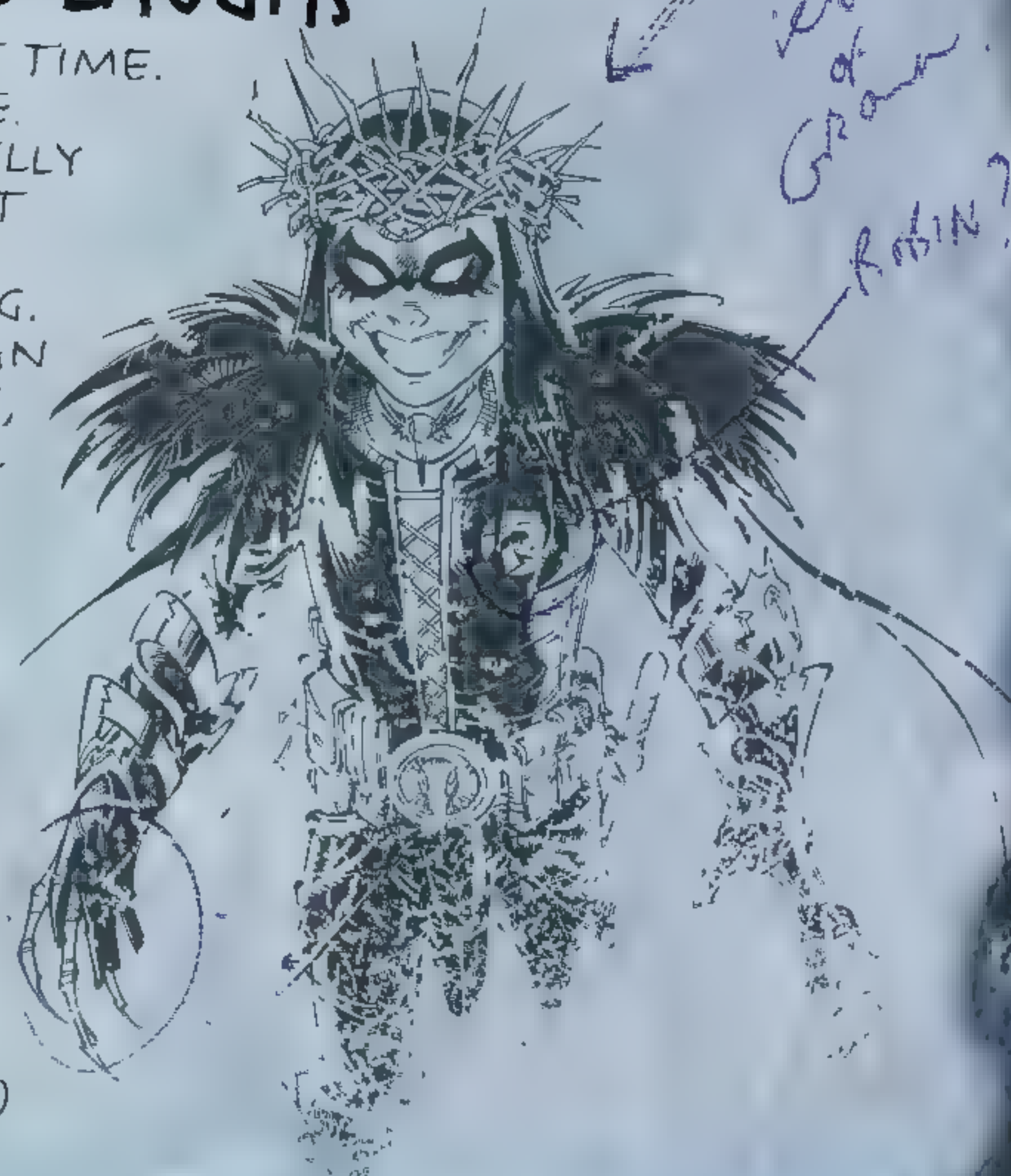
Eyes

DARK KNIGHT RULER: THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

I UNDERESTIMATED HIM LAST TIME. I THOUGHT SOME NIGHTMARE SCRAPED FROM THE UNDERBELLY OF THE MULTIVERSE COULDN'T HOPE TO RISE UP AND TAKE THIS WORLD. BUT I WAS WRONG. BATMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTELLECTUAL RIVAL OF MINE, AND WITH HIS MORAL CENTER REMOVED, AND MY FORMER ROLE AT PERPETUA'S RIGHT HAND USURPED, THERE IS NO MORE DANGEROUS BEING IN ALL OF EXISTENCE. HIS DESTRUCTION IS THE KEY TO RETAKING OUR WORLD.

KNOWN PLAYERS:

- ROBIN KING
- BATGIRL
- BATMAN, LORD OF THE DEAD
- JONAH HEX
- JOKER DRAGONS
- B. REX (DECEASED)
- THE DARK COUNCIL: BATMAGE, DR. ARKHAM, BATOM, BATMOBEAST, (MORE?)
- ARMY OF ALFREDS: ALFROOD?



Some kind of Grown? Robin?



All
Light
Dies.



All
Light
Dies.

CLIKK



Dragonlance



GOTHAM'S
CITIZENS
HAVE BEEN
IMPRISONED.
THE JOKER
DRAGON IS
IRRELEVANT.

WE
NEED TO
GET TO
THE CRYPT
OF
HEROES...

AGAIN
WIT' THE
"WE." WHY
ME?

I HAVE
MY
REASONS.

MAKE
ME A
LIST.



YOU USED THAT RING TO RAISE A SMALL ARMY FROM THE DEAD.

NOW THEY'RE JUST, WHAT, DRAGON FOOD...?

HEX, THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS.

All Light Dies.



HEY--HEY!

WHERE'D YOU GO, EARS--WAIT--

--IT'S THAT THING, AIN'T IT... THE RING... TALKIN' T'YA.

WHAT'S THE STORY...?



HERE'S THE STORY, HEX: WE CAN FIGHT THE DRAGON.

WE CAN SAVE THE MULTI-VERSE.

PICK ONE.



ONE, AS IN, ONE BULLET.

THAT'S GONNA BE ENOUGH TO KILL IT...?

IT'S NOT FOR THE DRAGON.

NO? THEN WHAT'S IT FOR?

YOU'LL KNOW WHEN THE TIME COMES.

YAH,
SEE,
THAT'S THE
PROBLEM
WITH YOU
GUYS.

"YOU
GUYS"?

GOOD
GUYS WHO
DRESS UP LIKE
BAD GUYS, WHO
PERSONIFY
EVIL TO
ACHIEVE
GOOD.

THAT
RING'S
GOT YER
PRIORITIES
SCREWED.

GOTCHA
RESURRECTIN'
HEROES
WHILE
FORGETTIN'
TO BE
ONE.

THAT'S IT,
HUH? GOT
ME ALL
FIGURED
OUT.

EMPTY
GUN. ONE
BULLET--
A WHITE
ONE.

NOT
FOR THE
DRAGON. NOT
FOR THE
BATMAN WHO
LAUGHS--

All
Light
Dies.

--BUT
FOR THE
LIGHT
CLOAKED
IN DARK-
NESS.

IN
CASE YOU
LOSE THE
ARGUMENT
YOU'RE
HAVING WITH
THAT
RING.

HERE--
LET'S
JUST
GET IT
OFF--

THE
BULLET
IS MADE
FROM WHITE
LANTERN
ENERGY.
IT'S ONLY
FITTING--

--I WAS
BORN IN
THE ALLEY
WHERE A
BULLET TOOK
MY FATHER
FROM
ME.

MY
DAD WAS
A VIOLENT
DRUNK
WHO SOLD
ME INTO
SLAVERY.

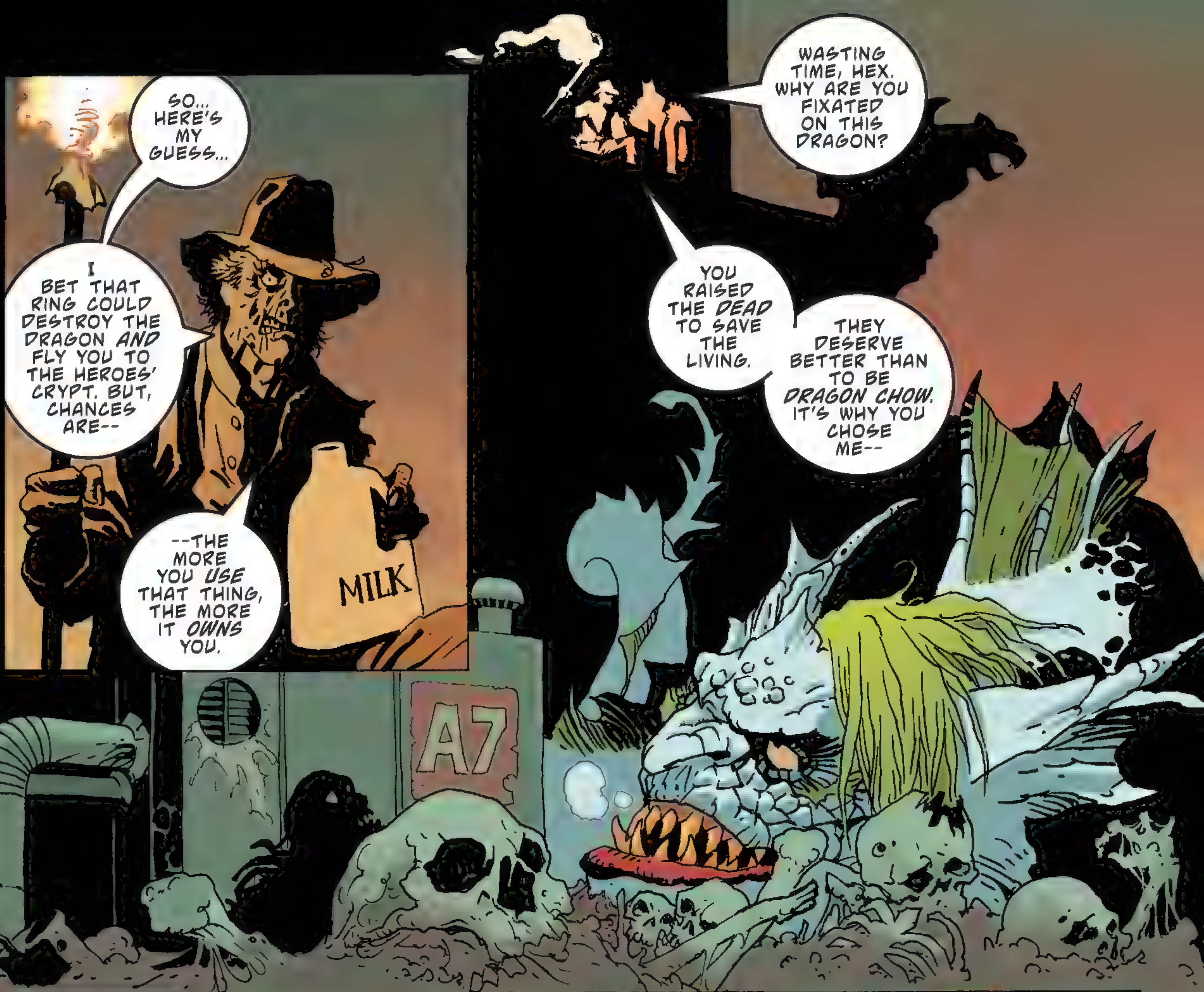
SHAKE
A STICK
AT
THAT.

ALL
RIGHT.

MEBBE SAFE-
GUARDING
YOUR SANITY IS
SAFEGUARDING
THE
MULTIVERSE.
BUT--

YES,
HEX,
YOU
WIN.

THE
DRAGON
FIRST.



SO...
HERE'S
MY
GUESS...

I
BET THAT
RING COULD
DESTROY THE
DRAGON AND
FLY YOU TO
THE HEROES'
CRYPT. BUT,
CHANCES
ARE--

--THE
MORE
YOU USE
THAT THING,
THE MORE
IT OWNS
YOU.

MILK

WASTING
TIME, HEX.
WHY ARE YOU
FIXATED
ON THIS
DRAGON?

YOU
RAISED
THE DEAD
TO SAVE
THE
LIVING.

THEY
DESERVE
BETTER THAN
TO BE
DRAGON CHOW.
IT'S WHY YOU
CHOSE
ME--



--I WAS
RAISED BY
MESCALERO
APACHE.

APACHE
RESPECT
ALL
LIVING
THINGS.

THEY
ALSO SHOW
RESPECT
FOR THE
DEAD. THIS
THING--

--MEBBE
ONCE WAS
A BIRD--
A HORSE,
WHAT-
EVER.

A
NOBLE
CREATURE
WHO
DESERVED
BETTER.



MOVE
AWAY
NOW...

ALREADY
DEAD, BATS.
WHAT'S IT
GONNA
DO, KILL ME
TWICE? ALL
RIGHT--



--THE FLASH-
BANG GRENADE
I UNDERSTAND.
BUT...
MILK--?

CRYPTO-
CHROME.

CRY4 IS
A CLASS
OF PROTEIN
THAT IS
SENSITIVE
TO BLUE
LIGHT.



FRAKZZZT!

IT'S HOW BIRDS "SEE" AND NAVIGATE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELDS.

ENZYMES IN THE MILK MOMENTARILY BLUNT THE CREATURE'S NAVIGATION.

YES, JONAH. IT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU-- NOT AN ARGUMENT... A VOW...

All Light Dies.

...THE BLACK LANTERN CREED... RINGING IN MY EARS...

"THE BLACKEST NIGHT FALLS FROM THE SKIES.

"THE DARKNESS GROWS AS ALL LIGHT DIES..."

"I once met a man from Nantucket..."

JUST BAD POETRY, EARS--

--DON'T HUM THE TUNE.

SKREEEE--!!

THE APACHE BRAVE DEALS WITH DARKNESS AND LIGHT--

--LIVING THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE EARTH WITHIN THE CONFINES OF MAN.

AND THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU?

NO--

--YOU CHOSE ME BECAUSE I'M AN ASS.

NO CAPE, NO BS.

WELL, THEN, LET'S RIDE.

APACHE TRADITION HONORS THE ANIMAL FOR THE GIFT OF ITS LIFE.

GIDDYUP, EARS.

NOT YET--WE NEED ONE MORE THING...

END

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INCLUDES A NEW STORY SPINNING OUT OF **JOKER WAR**



SEPTEMBER

WRAPAROUND COVER BY **ANDY KUBERT**

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Batman Three Jokers

— PART I —

Batman: Three Jokers, the highly anticipated series by writer Geoff Johns and artist Jason Fabok, has been building for years—not just in Johns and Fabok's previous collaborations, but since the very beginning of Batman and The Joker's decades-long conflict. Here's a look at the events that led to the story that asks exactly who—or what—The Joker truly is.



BATMAN #1, 1940

Right from The Joker's very first appearance, he was already poisoning his enemies with deadly Joker Venom, kidnapping Robin, and opening fire on Batman multiple times at point-blank range.



BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE, 1988

Maybe the most infamous moment in The Joker's history: shooting Barbara Gordon—better known as Batgirl—leaving her paralyzed. *Three Jokers* will deal directly with that trauma, as originally depicted in Alan Moore and Brian Bolland's classic.



JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE DARKSEID WAR, 2015

Johns and Fabok's cosmically consequential *Justice League* arc saw Batman sit on Metron's Mobius Chair, which grants its host omniscience. The *Three Jokers* mystery begins as Batman asks the chair for The Joker's real name—and is shocked by the answer.



BATMAN: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY, 1988

In this controversial story, The Joker murders Jason Todd—the second Robin—in part by beating him with a crowbar (as visually referenced in the *Batman: Three Jokers* #1 cover). Jason, like Barbara, is also set to play a major role in *Batman: Three Jokers*.



DC UNIVERSE: REBIRTH, 2016

Suspense continued to build as fans learned months later what the Mobius Chair told Batman: that there are three Jokers. How could that be? What does that even mean? These are the questions at the center of *Batman: Three Jokers*.

**BATMAN: THREE JOKERS #1
ON SALE IN AUGUST!**



BLACK
LABEL

AGES 17+

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